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MAIL BACK



'I think Barack Obama is the new J.F.K. And as for Hillary; she is the new Richard Nixon.'

MORE VOTES FOR OBAMA

IN MY VIEW Senator Barack Obama will be president, that is final ("Obamaism", World, Jan. 21). Some sceptical matters, but there are young people now trying to decide if any candidate is paying attention to their needs. He is connecting the dots and that is very important
Amant Naggar, Ottawa

I'VE SUPPORTED Obama's candidacy ever since I've been voting 27th birthday and got his 2004 book, *The Audacity of Hope*. I think he's the new J.F.K. And Hillary? She's the new Nixon.
Perry Wall, Ottawa, Ont

THE U.S. PREMARIES are in full swing and we have the dramatic spectacle of Hillary Clinton tearing up an act ("The Crying Game", From the Editors, Jan. 21). We can also vote now mainstream candidate Barack Obama scoring up huge support among the electorate by pushing a message of change to the ultimate outsider. Welcome to the latest U.S. reality show.
David Mahony, Etobicoke, Ont

MACLEAN'S HAS A FLATTERING picture of a smiling Obama on the cover and a very unflattering picture of a smug-eyed Hillary Clinton on the editorial page. If Obama turned up, would he be ridiculed or would he be considered a sensitive guy? And if he fought back, would he be called selfish or arrogant? I've been around for a long time and I wouldn't bet that many people in town—and evidently the press—are still fearful of strong women. Don't forget who ruled you. Obama can't be a strong woman and one of the things she probably taught us to play for.
Lorraine Williams, Kitchener, Ont

INTERVIEW NOTES

I TURNED TO Kenneth Whyte's interview with Kevin Johnson about his interview (Interview, Jan. 21). There often are a lot of things to be learned from the magazine (I loved the Woody Allen interview in the Jan. 14 issue). Johnson begins his very interesting things to say but it is very end of the interview that is just disappointing in an oddly predictable way. Johnson says, "The Canadian dream is not an American dream. The Canadian dream is much more cultural, it's much more about

human rights, it's much more about the respect of others." That's completely off the mark! I was born in Canada and came to this country 27 years ago after having lived in Israel, Great Britain and Iceland. For me, the Canadian dream is very similar to the American dream: it's about liberty and opportunity. I came here and found a country that was free and just, relatively free of corruption, with an excellent standard of living and plenty of opportunity for self-realization. I didn't seek out Canada because it was more "cultured" or more "about human rights." That kind of tired cliché may appeal to freshmen



university students, but it doesn't ring true to me or any other immigrant I know.
George Gorman, Toronto

NYET, NEIN, NAH

THE ADVICE OF psychiatrist Marcia Gurell undercuts ("For women who can't just say no," Help, Jan. 21). She advises readers to post a set of "ready-made excuses" by the phone to deal with people who need help too often or talk too long. Instead of simply saying, "Please excuse me, I really have to go," she tells readers to say one of the kids is crying or they're being picked. This is crazy if our professional advice is to say no to cancer and while this is true, we have no emotion, then what hope does that leave of living our fears or having other citizens act as trust money? Every time we tell ourselves another layer of pretense. And we know it. And it makes us feel even more helpless. I'm glad any mother

taught me it was wrong to be, not "strange." And for me, Gurell won't stand if I just say "no" to buying her new book.
Danya K. Masson, Edmonton

DREAMING OF DEMOCRACY

HAVING RECENTLY READ M.G. Vassanji's powerful novel, *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*, which is set in Kenya at the time of the Mau Mau uprisings, I was eager to see his comments about the country's failed elections ("Why this sudden success in Kenya?", World, Jan. 21). His reflections are a heart-rending cry de la terre for his birthplace. Once again, his deeply felt hopes for Kenya's long struggle toward democracy and social justice are disappointed. But what also depresses him to the point of weeping anger is the global perception that such failure is all we can expect from the African continent. We deserve his passionate reminder that attitudes of superiority are self-delusional and hypocritical. We have only to look around us.
Caral McDermott, Sarnia, Ont

KINDERGARTEN CRISIS

MANY CANADIAN PARENTS are angry about the public school system, but can't really figure out why ("Down to his boys," Society, Jan. 21). Author and research psychologist Kenneth Fox provides some shocking answers to their unspoken questions. We know now that the inclination to drop out of school at age 16 can be traced back to the institutional teaching of anti-individualism in kindergarten. Is there a teacher-instilled inclination that will take the consequences of these realizations and make some changes to the curriculum? Will our school authorities have the courage to provide kindergarten teachers with crash courses in awareness that they discriminate against when they ask little boys and girls to behave like mindless extensions of jobs?
Gaelker-Wisher, Thurston, Ont

THOSE OF US who have been teaching for a long time know that most four- and five-year-old boys are not developmentally ready to sit for long periods of instruction and time. Consequently, in these times of increased emphasis on education quality and accountability (EQAs) test scores, teachers have continually lowered the age at which they expect children to be engaged in reading and writing at below the targeted levels

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'Freedom of speech isn't something you can give and withhold depending on the topic. The most controversial opinions need the most protection.'

There is no accounting for what is developmentally appropriate anymore. Frantic parents torn between what they know is right and what is mandated spend great amounts of instructional time trying to get their young children, especially the boys, to focus, to sit still and read. We are turning kids off of school in our high-powered, technology environments. When once Ozzy Osbourne was a leader in obscenity reform, now, well, all we can do is follow the poor models of other countries.

Scott Haward, Uttersa, Ont.

PERHAPS IN THE 1950s it would have been appropriate to send these pennywise young boys and girls as different as night and day. Today, I expect better than this blatant misogynistic article. Our school system is not the true culprit in the so-called boy crisis. The problem is that we are teaching young boys to be indifferent of what is considered girls' behaviour, and so embrace violence as the ultimate form of masculinity.

Laura Adelman, Waterloo, Ont.

SPEAKING FREELY

I CAN'T BELIEVE I am writing this, but I agree with Barbara Amiel in her column on human rights consciousness ("I feel like using them myself but don't use the power," *Opinion*, Jan. 14). You'd think that human rights commissions existed to protect the rights of individuals who suffer discrimination. In my experience, they exist to persecute and justify themselves, hence the high-profile cases against Amiel and Mark Steyn.

Joan Marston, Edinburgh, Scotland

I DON'T AMIEL's column. She does seem to me questions a lot. Perhaps she might consider the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Free speech would not protect unconstitutionally showing fire in a theatre." I rather suppose the adaptation applies to the international theatre as well.

Jim Batistovich, North Vancouver

AS AMIEL RIGHTLY points out, freedom of speech isn't something you can give and withhold depending on the topic. In fact, it's the most controversial opinion that is the most crucial to a liberal democracy and thus needs the most protection.

Carolyn Partridge, Newcastle, N.C.

XENOPHOBIA IN PRINT

I AM DEBUSED by the choice of your editors highlighting the article about the acts of violence and intimidation used by the anglophone majority against the francophone mayor and councillors in the town of Bury, Que. ("Fire in the snowstorm," *National*, Jan. 21). Mayor Marc Jacques Goodin has con-



BOYS WILL BE BOYS: 'Tiger,' a reader says

recently been confrontational and used less than appropriate language, which in no way justifies the violence and intimidation that has occurred. However, the only struggle I can see was demonstrated in your table of contents, where you called the article "More Quebec Bigotry."

Eric Grewier, Galtersau, Que.

AS A DESCENDANT of pioneer families in the area and as one who has spent most of my summers there, it is very disturbing to see Bury brought to national attention for its current discord rather than, say, its excellent record in the Second World War, for which it had the highest per capita enlistment in Canada. Most long-term residents of the area would attest that there has always been a good relationship between French and English in the community. My anglophone grandmother and her francophone neighbours spoke and communicated in the only way that really makes sense—leading a hand when it was needed and nodding in each other in lieu of words. Your journalist Martin Patenaude notes that Bury is home to a large number of English-French families, your readers may not realize that one

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'I agree Potts is no Pavarotti. Indeed, he is a "bog-standard tenor." So what?'

of the more audible English-speaking Pavarotti continues to marry a francophone as Jean Charest's mother. My mother did the same. The current situation is an aberration that the good citizens of Burg will correct at the next municipal election. In the meantime, the volatile situation is not helped by outsiders who see the pot rather than their own garden. Just as the commission on reasonable accommodations seemed to attract the loudest fringe, so, it seems, do Burg's town council meetings. Diana Charest, Richmond, Ont.

BENEFITS OF FEMALE DOGS

THE REMARKS attributed to me in the article entitled "Adding Fuel to the Doctor Crisis" (Health, Jan. 14) might have left readers thinking I was critical of the role of female physicians within our medical system. In fact, the increasing number of female doctors is a positive factor that enhances the quality of our health system. There is data to show that female physicians spend more time with patients, are more compassionate, and are often perceived as more conscientious. In terms of the shortage of doctors, I believe that governments must place additional. The public clearly wants more female doctors, and a consumer responsiveness should respond to that demand. The rise in numbers of female students in medical schools is likely due to the fact that women applicants have superior academic and other desired credentials. I would never argue that quotas should replace quality. My own wife is a family physician, who had a full obstetric practice, and worked over 50 hours a week. I thought she was the best family physician in the world, as opposed to her by her partner. We need more like her. Dr. Brian Day, President, CMA, Ontario

MR. HOCKEY'S STREET FIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlie Gill on going as the fall story on the recent Gordie Howe lawsuit against his neighbours is an apocryphal community near Detroit ("Howe lawsuit," Society, Jan. 14). Gill's former law peer broke horse the relocation of howlback ranch of journalists has become. When this story broke, some random and viewers knew why this case drove neighbours were "spring" on an elderly hockey legend and his ally with far more supposedly sick reason. You have helped to restore the reputation of the Dorfman. Unfortunately, as



STRANGE GOINGS-ON: 'Even in a nice community, how's neighbours weren't answer'

Loard Dorfman's Google example perfectly illustrates, it's probably too late. Jonathan Naylor, Elm, Ont.

THE ARTICLE ABOUT Gordie Howe and his neighbours the Dorfman placed me back to my own experience with a neighbour from hell, after doing something certainly illegal. Some 30 years ago, when my wife and I owned a house in a poor area, we discovered our next-door neighbour was dealing in drugs under the guise of being a pure race motorcycle repair man. Dozens of people would call at the house at all times of the day and night. And just like the Dorfman, we never knew who we would find either parked in or blocking our driveway. My initial complaint to my neighbour was met with concern, but after that he barely ignored me. When I finally took action by complaining to the police, his response was exactly the same as Howe's to Loard Dorfman. "What the f--- is your problem?" I solved my problem by moving. Yet it's sad that even in an upscale community one is not immune to boorish neighbours. Michael Montemurro, Toronto, Ont.

THE POTTS PHENOMENON

JAMES J. ZEIMANN's article on the Tab's sensation Paul Potts was rather catchy ("The man who could Simon Cowell," Music, Jan. 21). First, the story says that Potts "has explained the idea that he was kept down by his lack of wealth" and then the sub-heading states that Cowell "is partly to blame for the Paul Potts

phenomenon," as if somehow he'd reflected something repellent on an unsuspecting public. I agree Potts is no Pavarotti. Indeed, Western opera music critic Philip Henshaw is saying he is "the sort of bog-standard tenor to be found in any amateur opera company." So what? Potts was able to accomplish what many seasoned performers fail to do: connect with his audience on a visceral level, ignored by him at the meeting of Pavarotti's Nottos Dornas. Give the man his due and don't blame him for trying. Patrick Yin, Whistler, Que.

IN PASSING

Heath Ledger, 28, an Australian actor, he rose to international fame with *A Knight's Tale* in 2001, and it was his portrayal of an aristocratic homosexual cowboy in *Brotherhood* that earned him a nomination for an Oscar. He fathered a child with his *Brotherhood* co-star, Michelle Williams. Ledger recently played the Joker in the upcoming Batman movie.

Don Wyszynski, 71, broadcaster. A versatile CBC sports commentator, he covered Grey Cup games, curling, tennis, golf tournaments and was at 15 Olympic Games. He began as a day jockey in Saskatoon before joining the CBC in 1961 in Winnipeg.

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF KIEFER SUTHERLAND

The actor left California's Glendale City Jail on Monday after serving 48 days (for his 48 TV seasons in Jack Bauer years) for drunk driving while on probation for a previous DUI. Sutherland, who worked as the jail's laundry, was called co-operative and a model prisoner, everything Bauer isn't. His jail time coincided neatly with the writer's strike, which forced Fox to halt work on his show 24. Fox may delay the series for a year. The actor drags on, the clock ticks. But then, it sleeps deep.

Good news

Mending fences

We were hesitant to witness some genuine compromise this week among warring neighbours. After weeks of post talk-fests by the U.S., the EU and the African Union, governments and rebel leaders in the embattled Democratic Republic of Congo reached an "agreement in principle." If signed, the deal will involve a permanent ceasefire, the disarmament of troops, and a partial amnesty for rebels—all of which would be overseen by UN troops. On Tuesday, Israel agreed to more national elections and eased up on its controversial Palestinian blockade—recently rapped up in retaliation for rocket attacks by Gaza-based militants (into Israel's soil)—after a major power plant supplying Gaza City that donors had agreed to allow shipments of food, fuel and medicines to pass into the impoverished territory—albeit for one day only. Still, it's a start.

Crime files

Conner added Ricardo Soto's SUV with bullets Saturday night as he arrived at a downtown Vancouver nightclub for his engagement party, killing him and another man. Police blame gang warfare for an unwitting rash of public, targeted hit, none of which go unnoted. They are, however, making inroads in getting another class of bad guy off Vancouver streets. They estimate 1,500 fugitives from other jurisdictions nearly five because they are wanted on "no return" warrants from provinces that won't pay to bring them back for trial. Police have a special for public demonstrations and frequent flyer miles to fly the fugitives home. A better solution, though, would be a federal law making it a crime to flee a warrant.

Bad news

The hardest word

It was a tough week for Monica Berrier, Canada's foreign affairs minister. She had to write a copy letter to Poland's high commissioners, apologizing for remarks made by Ottawa's first Lady Stephenie Dowd (she said that NATO should send troops into Poland). The next day, newspapers published embarrassing excerpts from an internal meeting about the third straight year. Thankfully, Ashley Wright at Canada has read the writing on the

crisis where reports are higher. Fiddl Centre posted. Cuban "voters" for raising participation in parliamentary elections" that consisted of 614 candidates for 614 seats. Considering there was no interest, the voter turnout, at 95 per cent, puts Canada to shame.

Plus ça change...

Thirty years after Bill 105, the language debate still makes for great headline fodder. Posing as a bilingual anglophone, a *Journal de Montréal* journalist posed as a 90. Montréal business with her résumé. The journalist "worked" in English at 85 different restaurants and boutiques over the Christmas holiday, then wrote a scathing exposé, prompting reams of outraged letters. Not to be outdone, the PQ marked the anniversary of Bill 105 by calling for a strict return to the law, adding that a PQ government would accept immigrants to send their kids to French daycare.

Road rage

Those cheap Chinese cars can't arrive soon enough. A new report is urging the Ontario government to charge tolls on some major highways and boost the provincial gas tax by as much as a litre. The expected revenue—more than \$1 billion a year—would pay for much-needed road repairs and additional public transit, the report says. How typical. Is a tax hike always the only answer? Besides, where will Ontario find enough people to operate all those extra tolls and tollbooths? According to some startling new figures, almost 200 transit drivers in Toronto are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after being attacked, shot and spit on by wealthy passengers. ■

FACE OF THE WEEK



COURTING THE YOUTH VOTE: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama greets a supporter at a South Carolina rally

will and started to broadcast the winning Candidates nationally, instead of the usual exclusive Golf Links Golf?

Kids butting out

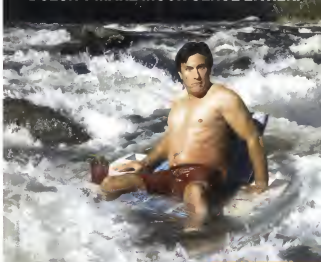
Convenience store owners are convinced the illegal cigarette trade is making it easier for minors to get smoke—and they want to see a ban on youth purchases. For the past week, young Gun ads are as common as light-up pens for the police. The Youth Smoking Survey found that 10 per cent fewer kids in Grades 5 to 9 tried smoking in 2005-06 compared to a decade earlier.

failed to apologize. John Manley's Afghanistan report offered no relief for Canada's top diplomat. Among the findings, Manley said that Stephen Harper's cabinet, Berrier included, has failed to properly explain the mission to Canadians.

When bullies rule

Latin American immigrants were in line from this week. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, seeking food shortage solutions, threatened to nationalize farms, threatening poor farmers from trying to profit by selling their produce in neighbouring coun-

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Harper's paranoid, but he's not the only one



ANDREW POTTER

There would be far more shade on a Conservative government, since every major federal institution—excluding the Senate, the Supreme Court, and the bureaucracy—was stacked with Liberal partisans.

Not far long, judging by the way things are going. When Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission head Linda Keen was fired last week, it didn't seem so much of a surprise. Her rise was pretty much run on Dec. 16, when the longest-serving head created emergency legislation allowing the AECL to react to the Chalk River reactor that produces two thirds of the world's supply of medical isotopes.

But the way it was done—in a true emergency—wasn't exactly subtle. In Ottawa, the night before she was to testify before a Conservative committee—only confirmed the growing conviction that the PM is not just a control freak, but that he's paranoid to boot. Linda Keen is just the latest recent public servant to find herself on the wrong side of Harper's paranoia; the list includes former education commissioner John Reid, former ethics commissioner Bernard Shapiro, and chief electoral officer Marc Mayrand. Relations between the Conservative government and the bureaucracy have deteriorated so much that a University of Ottawa law professor recently suggested that the public service is on the verge of "disintegration."

In fairness, it isn't clear how much of this can be blamed on Harper. A stringently conservative glow seems to have settled over the Christian year, but it's worth remembering that Jean Chrétien was also a massive control freak who had an antagonistic relationship with the public service. In his book *Convo-*

ying from the Centre, political scientist Donald Sorenson argued that under Chrétien, federal authority had become overly concentrated in a handful of central agencies, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Privy Council, and the Treasury Board. The Globe and Mail's Jeffrey Simpson pointed up Sorenson's basic thesis for his book *The Friendly Dictatorship*, whose cover featured a smiling Chrétien dressed up as Pinocchio.

But tempting as it is to attribute the centralization of power to the temperance of the prime minister of the day, the problem resonates only with Harper, not with Chrétien, but with Ottawa as a whole. It may not be just the PM but the entire federal government that is paranoid, and the question we



Linda Keen is just the latest public servant on the wrong side of the PM's neurosis

should be asking is: what's eating Ottawa?

Part of it is the ongoing bludge of Quebec separatists, 40 years of which has made the federal case a bit paralytic about exposing the inner workings, but Ottawa's problems go way beyond Quebec. The place is completely opaque and unaccountable. Nobody puts anything out there in writing. And nothing has made this culture worse than the successive efforts to correct it.

When the Access to Information Act was introduced in 1985, it was supposed to make the feds more accountable by making the machinery of government more open and transparent. It immediately backfired, since the chief consequence of openness and transparency is to provide ammunition to the media and the opposition.

So what happens to an institution that's increasingly concerned with managing the risks associated with the disclosure of information? It starts by restricting decision-making

as to as much a group as possible while discussing over communications and open. It looks ahead to those who request information, and becomes hostile to agencies that are able to force it to disclose materials it would prefer to keep secret. In short, you end up with a regime like Stephen Harper's, which has made a habit of drawing senior members of the bureaucracy into the political fray while declaring open war on independent commissioners and officers of Parliament.

And now history is repeating itself with the Accountability Act, the centerpiece of the Tory platform during the last election campaign. When it was signed into law, then Treasury Board president John Baird, with his customary sense of proportion, called it "the biggest reform in Canadian history of government." More likely, it will turn out to be one of the most poorly advised reforms since even its supporters concede that it will make the government increasingly fearful, more bureaucratic.

Ironically, it's under the name of accountability that Harper is systematically jettisoning senior Liberal appointees while happily ignoring any part his own government plays. But if accountability towards the Linda Keen is fired, surely Gary Lunn should have stepped down as well.

The fact is, Conservative governments are always going to inherit liberal bureaucrats (and, when they're in charge to step in power long enough, vice versa), and this is what it looks like when they attempt to drive home the all the messages about Stephen Harper's "hidden agenda" before he becomes Prime Minister, the one thing the man never tried to hide was his conviction that the best thing Ottawa could do for the country is to simply go away. Blurring that, as hard as that of a better way to harnessing the federal government than to let its business up in a desperate race to afford rage and apprehension.

I isn't pretty, but given Stephen Harper's uniquely paranoid way of dealing with people who challenge or stand up to him, it could get uglier still. How ugly? Well, until he gets his majority. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Potter, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/andrepotter

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'One day I'm discussing nail polish with the Olsen twins, the next I've got this huge, life-threatening disease'

STEVEN COJOCARU TALKS TO LIANNE GEORGE ABOUT GLAMOUR, THE STALKERAZZI, AND HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE A KIDNEY REPLACED—TWICE

In 2004, Steven Seagal, the *Shogun* star, mourned bare midriffs and celebrity corpse posers for *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider*, was diagnosed with a potentially lethal form of kidney disease. Since then, he has undergone two kidney transplants—the first came from a friend, the second from his 70-year-old mother—mirrors of isolation, and harsh public scrutiny over his illness-related weight gain. He tells his story in his new book, *Glauzon, Interrupted: How I Became the Best Dressed Pariah in Hollywood*.

Q: You clearly love what you do. Did you always know what you wanted to be in this world?

A: Always. It's almost scarybook how it all unfolded. I was an awkward, glaucous-eyed child with a very strong mother. I was talking about Liza Terner and *New Yorker* as my favorite. I was almost fully formed.

Q: Did you have fashion role models?

A: For me it was all about movie stars and glamour. It was never about models, never

er and the plaster on the red carpet, and I criticize them. They all know that it's done with a grain of salt. When they put my year-end's hat on, I'm prepared. I am those Sawyer—you know, in rock 'n' roll, Dolce & Gabbani boxes. I strive for a girlfriend-to-girlfriend kind of conversation. I don't go for the gossip. I don't care who they're sleeping with. I care who I'm sleeping with. I know I'm the king of fluff. And it all looks easy. But it takes a lot to look professionally sapid.

Q. What do you think of how romance col-

Q: First talk a bit about the intense and painful involved in making a *keisei* loved one. How was the first experience from the second?

A: The first time was the greatest. It felt very life-and-death. My first

Q: How do you mean?

A: Well, just rubbing over the so-called female doctors that cause a hair and it raised the heat in the rank into danger, but I'd have to know it, these were names, and the burn and a mistake and there damn, attached to three mistakes, go, "You need to work," I made



Q *Everyone calls you Gogo. Mind if I do?*
A: No, I love it. I absolutely love having one name. My last name was so complicated—like an

Q: You don't see that kind of big, extreme, overt elegance on Hollywood screens

And I think I'm kind of old school. I think what's happened in Hollywood is—well, worse escape me because it's the apocalypse, that's what I think. It's got a Day of the Locust feel to it. Stars are being followed by packs of wolves, nasty animals. There are boundaries not just being crossed, that's being hunted.

a kidney from a best friend. It felt like I was losing a part of myself, but I was taking a chance and a bomb was going off. It was that dramatic. The second transplant was even more excruciating because I was going through it and now I was really sick. Now I was shielded by the doctors, but I was being killed by a disease. You go

Q Your own physical appearance quite dramatically. What wear did you go for?

A Well, I wanted to look so was on the eastern European in diet. I was a chain-smoker and I ate diet foods all day long. I was a bad body issue. All I ever wanted

'I'm the king of fluff. And it all looks easy. But it takes a lot to look

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Q: How do you feelings?
A: Great. I feel better now than I even did before. I don't have bad habits anymore. I'm forced at gunpoint by my doctors to resist take care of myself. I'm on the Zone diet. I don't eat fatty foods. I don't eat sugar, dairy, wheat. I'm on L.A. chisel. All that's missing is the marmite. And I hate it.

Q: Don't you mean you love it?
A: No, I'm miserable. I need my meat and protein. I miss smoking. I miss drinking. I miss creating. I miss staying up late.

Q: How does it affect how you do your job?
A: Before my illness was my job. I was my job. It all blended together. But now I can work the real career. I can schmooze at Hollywood

At Will, we've opened up a can of worms now. Sometimes I call myself "My God, God. I am ancient and overage already!" I came on with such a great wave of glamour girls who had pedigree, who had the whole package—Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek, Halle Berry—late film stars. Now, you've had to outstep me and your fellow wave on as we move on to the next one who has all the charms or gutsy glamour I like, but I missed all Lo. I've been gabfied about her for 15 years and she hasn't even sent me a e-mail!

Q: Celebrating seems to have you—even though you're missing their riches half of the time. How do you describe your approach?

A: I do two separate things. I'm the person

Q Does it make your job harder to do as a parent as that of your old Hollywood glamour?
A As the venter is almost impossible to keep up. I would like to think I came into this with [a good all] peeling away the veneer because it is not unusual of this movie star or another. But things have changed culturally in the last four or five years. It's that harder. Before you would call me of my 1940s, and you'd still call out pieces on people. That genre is still there, but the style side is definitely there. It doesn't make

Q How is your mother doing?
A My mother is in a nursing home. She's a poster child—a poster senior—she happens with arthritic diabetes. The 70-year-old woman can give an organized speech. People half her age can do it. At the end of her and what she represents is the reason for me in this message of compassion. She's barely five feet tall. Hercules. Hercules with a little Pinocchio. **Q** Hercules like you received very good care at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. How "hospital to the stars" is it?
A It was very fortunate. I didn't

[illegible]

professionally certainly not going to set there as
E: Int television star's ass
Q: Would you have done these things
A: Yes. I'd had to
Q: How does your illness affect
A: And I take about 50 pills a
Q: But it's an accident means that
restricted I live. And I sleep I
Q: Fought anything good from
A: Yes. I'm going on a book to
Tina Turner. I had every
Millon making me shoes. This
I have one name now. That's ma
liger is in my mind if Macdonald

MACLEAN'S POS & CO

my job harder because I have my own little galaxy that I function as. I'm brutally honest, but I'm also having fun with them. I'm not losing them. I'm Heidi Hopper! So it's a strange world but, you know, I didn't come to Hollywood for a stable, healthy and safe lifestyle.

A Tell us about polycystic kidney disease. Polycystic kidney disease is a genetic condition where cysts grow on your kidneys, so many they start to eat away at the tissue. The kidneys become very enlarged and they start to press against organs and it gets very uncomfortable and it gets dangerous. I was very close to my kidneys that time.

Q: When I first found out your diagnosis, you were reluctant to let anyone know? **A:** First, there's the emotional fear. One day I'm looking at candles in Fred Segal—and I can't even begin to describe the full-on discussion I had with the salesmen with the Olson men. Then the next day, I'm in the doctor's office and I'm diagnosed with this huge disease which could be life threatening. But I didn't really allow the emotional part. One of my first thoughts was, "Oh my God, my career is over!" Because I'm a current, democratically possessed when it comes to my career, and I thought I'm damaged goods. No one will see me as vibrant and employable because people are very discernible in show business.

Q You talk a lot about the intense gratitude and guilt involved in making a kidney from a loved one. How was the first operation different from the second?

A The first time was the great unknown: It felt very life-and-death. My kidneys were shutting down and what a miracle that I got a kidney from a loved friend. It felt like a clock ticking and a bomb was going to go off. It was that dramatic. The second time it was even more excruciating because I'd been through it and now I was really sick. The first time I was decided by the discomfort of being filled by a disease. You get a certain numbness there because it takes a long time to absorb that kind of shock.

Q *My mother is a shining example and a poster child—a poster someone like what can happen with organ donation. She, 70-year-old woman can give an organ and save a life then people half her age can do it. I'm so proud of her and what she represents. Obviously the reason for it lies in the message about organ donation. She's obviously free of all and she's Hercules. He deals with a little Poole bug.*

Q *I found him just over my good care at Golden State Medical Center, Hollywood "hospital to the stars"*

A *I was very fortunate. I definitely had the*

privilege of many choices. I take great pride in being doctors. I had a lot of doctors who were really old cases, very Dick Cheneyish, and I don't respond to that. I only allowed Democratic doctors to treat me.

A. There isn't a very nice floor and it's filled with celebrities and people who have pull, and regular people, too, depending on their condition. But most celebrities are put on that floor because it's the closest and it has views. It's like a little junior suite.

Q Tell me about the room you ended up in.

A I was in the same room that Audrey Hepburn had been in. I lodged in the Audrey Hepburn Memorial Suite. It's got couches and a dining table and a flat screen TV and a beautiful bathroom. Compared to the Tijuana prison cell I was in on the laundry floor, that was like a day in the life.

Q: What got you through this experience?
A: People think I was brave. Not at all. Courageous or noble? None of the above. It was my gritty diva-run—the ghost of Bette Davis—that got me through this.

Q: How do you mean?
A: Well, just making over the names. I had some female doctors that came in with bad hair and it ruined the best in me. I could've sunk into despair, but I'd have these names come in, these nice nurses, and they'd have said, *honey* and *gorgeous* and then I knew, I was

Q *Your new physical appearance changed quite dramatically. What was that like?*

A Before, I wanted to look really thin. I was on the eastern European supermodel diet. I was a chaser-smoker and I was detoxing diet sodas all day long. I was emaciated. I had body issues. All over summer was to look like a rock star. I never wanted to look like Superman or a soccer monkey with bulging

At every time there's a crisis where your fashion levels are up, in order to bring that down, you're just attached with steroids and that's when I would blow up. Also with the dizziness. That all this winter and that's when I was 220. I have to tell you, when I was on it, I didn't realize how big it was. It was really afterward when I got back in the swing of things that there have been, moments of torture. Recently, I've been up and down

Q What has been less fun for you?

A It was very difficult and traumatic being heavy. It was embarrassing. It was also awkward because I went to find clothes—I needed clothes for the Academy Awards—and I never experienced this, something where you experience every day, when I went out and wore "The Dior Baronne and they didn't have jeans on my line. It's the most disgusting thing, for somebody to say "You're ugly, you're too worthy of your clothes." I think it was a lesson. It was supposed to drive me.

Q How your illness made you appreciate Hollywood more or less?

A Before, The way I felt Hollywood, I'm allowed to walk it, but it's my license and it's in my heart so I don't with anyone and we're one million fan of one's family. At the same time, there are those for the showbiz.

'I'm the king of fluff. And it all looks easy. But it takes a lot to look professionally vapid.'

Q: Would you have done them before?
A: Yes. If I had to.
Q: How does your illness affect you now?
A: I don't think about 30 pills a day, every day.
Q: But it was second nature that I don't think I missed.
A: I live. And I sleep. I really sleep.
Q: Enough anything good lately?
A: Yes. I'm going on a book tour. I visited
Tim Sisk. Looking. I had every cobbler in
Milwaukee making me shoes. This is an event. I
have one name now. That's made me even
happier in my mind. I'm Madonna. ■

HARPER'S



IN THE PM'S INNER CIRCLE, THERE'S NO ROOM FOR SENTIMENT OR TOLERANCE FOR FAILURE. MACLEAN'S LOOKS AT WHO'S IN, WHO'S OUT, AND WHO HAS REAL POWER IN OTTAWA.

BY JOHN GRIDGES • The man to consider first, in figuring out which players matter most to the plan Harper's inner circle, might be one who doesn't quite rate. About a year ago, John Williamson, widely considered the Prime Minister's closest friend for the past two decades, left his job as a lobbyist in Calgary and moved to Ottawa to become chief of staff to Citizenship and Immigration Minister Diane Finley. Critics pointed out that Harper, who had previously been known for making talent in his administration over close personal relationships, was taking into exception.

Yet in a series of interviews with senior Conservatives—some close to Harper, and others with enough distance to bring a touch of added objectivity—Williamson's name was never spontaneously raised in conversations about who has real clout. When asked about him, most assumed the Prime Minister and his old pal, who has worked on all his election and leadership campaigns, talk often, but none ventured to suggest that Williamson has shown enough detectable impact to merit him into the ranks of what we're calling "Harper's 12."

This is, like a certain series of hit movies, something of a franchise for Maclean's. Two years ago, we presented the remarkable feature "Harper's 12," shortly after the Conservatives won power, introducing a cast of potential stars around the service Prime Minister. The aim was to identify which politicians in front of the camera, and which actors behind the scenes, had the most potent blend of apparent power and sufficient standing with Harper to be sure about exercising it.

Back in early 2006, the most striking thing about Harper's key supporting cast members was that not one of them was an old, close confidant of the PM. Admirers like Yves

Farragut and Kent Boockvar, who had been associated with him for many years, were noticeably absent from his new inner circle. Prominent MPs who had appeared in tandem with Harper in opposition, like B.C.'s James Moore and Ontario's Steve Reid, were that out of cabinet.

As the Williamson story suggests, Harper's retinue will depend remarkably little on sentimental ties. There are no long-time loyal retainers, the role Eddie Goldring played for Jean Chrétien. No chubby admirers who devoted the best years of their lives to him, like the tight-lipped Paul Martin posse.

Searching for a precise common denominator in a diverse group like Harper's 12 is pointless. But they do share this broad attribute: these are not unproven on-or-bench players. In a government defined by its tightly wound discipline, playing at the top level means anchoring to a place, in-

creasingly seen in the province. As well, no dominant Tory campaign official for Quebec has emerged. "Frankly, the Quebec picture is a bit of a mess," a Conservative war room veteran. Perhaps individual Quebec Tories lack underwriting in part because Harper is looking just them to a figure outside the party. Action democrats like Quebec Leader Marie Dumont. Yet few see Dumont orbiting closely enough around Harper to consider him a true inside insider.

Not all those who fell off the list underperformed. Senator Marjory LeBreton is still

in the game. Two years ago, Doug Peacock, the key campaign director, won't be the man of the hour. He'd just done his job, and extra ordinarily well, but the Conservatives were preparing to ride, not run. Now, they are governing, but leaning to campaign the opposite of their already surprisingly long-lived strategy is filled, making Peacock impossible to overlook for anyone looking ahead.

Still, the connection for Harper's team between governing now and campaigning soon is not quite so clear as it was two years ago. Back in early 2006, they knew their job was to break through a short list of

THERE ARE NO LONG-TIME LOYALISTS OR CLUBBY ADMIRERS. AND THEY AREN'T IMPROVISERS, OR HUNCH PLAYERS.



PLAYING AT THE TOP means having a plan. If the plan falls apart, the leader talks with it.

better yet, having a strong hand in devising it in the first place.

And when a plan falls apart, insiders tend to fall with it. Rana Anand's early made the Harper's 12 list, a bright young star when Harper named her his first vice-president minister. But Anand's global warming plan was widely panned, and she was shuffled off to Intergovernmental Affairs, where she promptly disappeared from sight.

An uncertain plan, under unclear leadership, is almost as bad as a plan gone awry. Last time, we identified two Quebecers to watch: Maurice Bernier, then industry minister and now foreign minister, and Public Works Minister Michael Fortin. Two years later, they neither debate to no real conclusion about whether Bernier or Fortin, or perhaps Labour Minister Jean Yves Thériault, or Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon, has the key role when it comes to deliv-

erably respected by Harper's team, but her key role as a sage conservative is rarely highlighted by her old, close relationship with Brian Mulroney, now that the Radicals/Schreiber saga's reveal has demoted the former prime minister from Tory cast to cast. Mark Camron, Harper's policy director, is no less an insider two years on, but was edged out by others, like fellow Prime Minister's Office aide Bruce Cannon, whose name solidified as the Tories settled into running the country.

Time and circumstance have lifted others. The past two years have seen international affairs play a bigger role in shaping and shading Harper's prime ministerial plan than anyone planned for, so it should come as no surprise that his foreign and defense advisers, Steven Cerreto, becomes the second new darts, after the venerable clerk of the Privy Council, to slip discreetly into the pre-em-

inaries—then the GST, plus government fiscal legislation, exact some anti-trust measures—to give their party a viable record to run on the election they expected any day after the Liberals chose a new leader. Instead, they govern on. And on. It would take all those opposition parties in the House to defeat Harper's minority. The stars might align that way—over a budget? over *Ng* but not—there's no way to credibly predict when.

So Harper's team has shifted to playing a longer game, even as they keep a wary eye on the chance of having the hangings on/hot notice. Last fall's Throne Speech laid out plans that mostly won't yield credit. The economic update that followed offered broad-based success designed to boost long-term competitiveness, advance change from the previous two budgets' niche tax cuts (which for an election campaign, Top for us, but also obviously about how this or that targeted measure will fly with voters, more about how to keep old competitors battle candidates do their best. "This government's overall management of the economy and the public agenda is good," Harper told Maclean's recently, "and it's where the public wants us to go."

It's a rather bland boast, but a very broad one, too. Behind a policy work done outside on weighty files, from economic competitiveness to military procurement. Shifting from short-haul no longer haul thinking is hard to fault, but pulls show the Tories still at minority support levels. Two years after their nearly flawless campaign won them power, an unexpected question must be asked about Harper and his gang. They might have shown they can run a serious government, but that that brought them any closer to weaving a majority?

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PM'S OFFICE

COURTESY OF THE PM'S OFFICE



BRCDIE (right) is a shockingly low-key personality, especially compared to his boss

★ THE GM ★

IAN BRODIE

A CERTAIN OVERBLOWN grunter tends to attach to a prime minister's chief of staff. Some bring the makings of a weighty critique with them when they cross over from the senior ranks of the public service, like Derek Burney, who was an ambassador and deputy thinker on trade policy before Brian Mulroney tapped him for the job. Others carry established reputations as political heavyweights, like Jean Chrétien's equally feared and respected "velvet assassin," Jean Pelletier. But Stephen Harper's chief, Ian Brodie, is known for laughing easily and carrying papers lightly. He once summed up the job as "50 per cent traffic cop, 40 per cent fire-fighter and 10 per cent trying to find the same old shirt about."

Brodie's work might be all that. Just 34, and 100 per cent bright, the single most influential figure in Harper's inner circle. These are odds when he has so much impact on policy or image-making, or managing critical foes, or an laughing as one on the next election, that nobody else brings all these powers together as Brodie does. One sign of just how important he is: a fake name. Last July, that he was cutting out swept through Ottawa like a summer wildfire, leading insiders to briefly forget to gossip about what turned out to be an accurate speculation about a soon-ign cabinet shuffle.

Brodie brought a more varied outlook to the PMO than either a pure policy expert like Burney or a hard-core political like Pelletier. A former political science professor, Brodie

wrote a book on how leaving activities were using the courts to advance their agendas but he also knows the pragmatic side of party organizer, having served in national director of the Conservative party back in 2004. (Heville, Vida Brodie, also a longtime Conservative activist, still works part-time for the party.) That combination—intellectually grounded conservative convictions and hard-earned insights into moulding a winning party—makes him sound a lot like his boss. He has even drawn daily advice from Harper through his other senior official, typically starting when he and top brassman Kevin Lynch deliver a morning briefing to the Prime Minister at about 9 a.m.

If Harper conceals an icy stare and especially for anger that can be intimidating, Brodie is a more disarming low-key personality and an even less feared figure. His experience allows him to bridge the party operation, which he knows intimately, and the government's day-to-day preoccupations, which he oversees meticulously. If there's a hallmark of Brodie's PMO, it's his methodical, risk-averse government. Cabinet ministers get precise instructions, although they are often given more freedom to carry them out than the impression of a highly controlled regime often suggests. It's communicating the government's message that is more subject to strict PMO authority. Brodie himself is never the messenger. He declined to comment for this story.

BY JOHN GORDON

★ THE MECHANIC ★

BRUCE CARSON

AMONG THE PLAYERS in the Prime Minister's Office, Bruce Carson's potential was among the hardest to size up in the early days. Not so when the Tories won power, he was a decade or two older than most of the crew considered close to Stephen Harper. It was a long time before anyone who had worked for Clark took to the days of the ill-fated Conservative record, although that was hardly a sparkling resume entry in Ottawa since 2006. Carson had not even lacked Harper during the leadership race for the newly merged Conservative party in 2004, maintaining a neutral party policy official through the contest. His roots were deep, sure, but it was easy to imagine him leading into a respectable but second-tier role.

Instead, he is now acknowledged as an indispensable PMO figure. Officially Harper's legislative assistant, his true stature is better reflected by the fact that he fills in as chief of staff when Ian Brodie is away from Ottawa. (At the time this article was being written, with Brodie on vacation, Carson was running the shop.) He's Harper's grey-haired sage, according to one veteran Conservative strategist. "The PM trusts him implicitly." Other insiders confirm that Carson's long expert eyes and extensive personal contacts with old school Tories are regarded as invaluable. But it's not his institutional memory or seasoned perspective that have most advanced Carson's reputation—it's his ability to take on tough files that demand concentrated work. "Bruce is our ombudsman," says a Harper confidant. "He can fix anything."

Well, maybe not anything. Back in 2006, Carson was lashed to this conservative minister Ben Ambrose when he handled of the government's high-profile climate change strategy was spinning out of control. The intervention wasn't enough to save Ambrose, who was later shuffled out of Environment to make room for a more government-aligned minister. But Carson wasn't blamed. Established on the file, he made sure to play a key behind-the-scenes role as an architect of Environment Minister John Baird's bid last spring to succeed where

Ambrose had stumbled in crafting a plausible global warming strategy.

In that role, Carson appeared on the radio screens of powerful industry lobbyists, particularly in the oil and gas sector, who are worried about how any serious regulations could hit their bottom lines. An Ottawa consultant with Tory credentials and a reputation for breaking among cabinet ministers who rip recent sometimes conflicting interests on the climate change issue. "In virtually all of the negotiations among [industry Ministers] Jim Prentice, [Natural Resources Minister] Gary Kerr, and [Energy Minister] Jim Flaherty, I have been at the table."

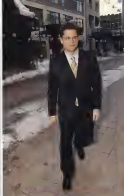
Carson's close working relationship with Prentice, the reluctant chairman of the oil-and-gas industry committee, accused. When Prentice was named interim minister prior to last summer's cabinet shuffle, Carson became the key behind the scenes architect of a new system for dealing with what are called "open file" issues. And Carson's role was not only to manage the land claim. While Indian Affairs has never conducted the copeland of Harper's critics, the portfolio is seen as strategically key. Having acted the controversial spear of sweeping Liberal prime minister Paul Martin's multi-billion dollar fiduciary record, the Conservatives decided they needed at least one significant accomplishment in their role in the new government. Carson delivered it.

Remember, Carson has played his mechanic's role on files like climate change and land claims without giving up day-to-day prominence in Harper's Parliament Hill operations. Along with Keith Beaudry, in charge of "issue management" in the PMO, Carson runs question period preparations. Not bad for a guy who not long ago looked like a relic from a previous Tory era.

BY JOHN GORDON



CARSON is Harper's grey-haired sage



MUTTART is a top strategist with an eye for colorful schemes

★ THE BRAND MAN ★

PATRICK MUTTART

AS THE STORIES GO, Patrick Muttart was in Australia this fall to oversee the campaign of prime minister John Howard, a conservative from whom the Harper brand must draw many lessons for its own 2008 election run.

When Howard lost, after 11 years in office, Muttart found himself surrounded by the vanquished. "Patrick was taken aback by the fact that here were all these people who suddenly lost their jobs and were feeling rather dejected," a Conservative insider says. "And his reaction was that he never wanted to feel that way."

Muttart, a deputy chief of staff responsible for "strategic planning," was essentially charged with just that—ensuring this government overcomes doubt. Where others deal with the day-to-day news cycles and controversies, Muttart is responsible for building a sustainable and successful Conservative brand. It's no small responsibility. Muttart is one of three

as Tom Flanagan explains in Harper's House, the University of Calgary professor's account of the last Conservative campaign. Muttart is well-suited to the job. "We had never had someone like Patrick on the campaign team—a high-level strategist with an ability to think in visual terms and draw on psychology," Flanagan writes. "He has an eye for colour schemes, photos, sound bites, advertising and all the other things that bring a political communication to life." Muttart is used, for instance, to have influenced the government's anti-budget deficit-reduction strategy. He's the government's resident word master and how specific cuts might best be sold.

He is also, by all accounts, a seasoned student of politics. For the 2006 election, he drew on the campaign of the late Bob Dineen in 1965, Margaret Thatcher in 1979, Newt Gingrich in 1994 and the aforementioned Blair and in 1996. But he doesn't just study the winners. After the Conservatives lost in 2004, it was Muttart who co-authored what's been described as a "brand" memo to party leadership, including Harper, that helped shape the successful run in 2006. "Patrick deserves credit for many things, but one of the things I think he deserves credit for that he doesn't often get is understanding why people have lost and addressing, constructively, what that has been inside," says the Conservative. "That's more in political people. People like to look past mistakes."

BY ADAM WEINSTEIN

★ THE SILENCER ★

SANDRA BUCKLER

LATE ONE AFTERNOON, shortly before the start of Parliament's fall session, Prime Minister Stephen Harper pulled out into the National Press Theatre in Ottawa to take questions from those reporters assigned to cover his government. On his cue, the host's presence of the event was protected as irremovable. "There seems to be a lot of press-up demand for a press conference," he joked.

Though perhaps tedious to anyone outside the capital, the relationship between the Prime Minister and the press gallery remains the paymaster's dream on the Hill, one that has reduced Harper's director of communications, Sandra Buckler, to a caricature willing to take stories. Which is not to say the PMO's approach to media relations isn't working.

"There are parallels between the political press corps and the psyche of journalists. There's this constant insecurity and paranoia about losing their jobs," says one Conservative. "Harper understands that. He plays that quite openly. He knows in Ottawa that the sense of this relationship and unfairness is something that drives people here."

One view has Buckler the implementer of Harper's agenda on press relations—obedient to what he's told to do. Another source says her as a far more active force, very much defining the communications strategy her self. Either way, she is unquestionably close to the Prime Minister and integral to the PMO. "Because they have similar, perhaps more, than have others survive," the Conservative explains. "And she probably doesn't mind too much adding the criticism about her inflexibility attitude toward the media. Because that, in a private way, cuts her steps with her boss."

A former lobbyist, Buckler proved skilled already during the 2006 campaign as a TV journalist for the CBC. Weeks after he took office, Harper abruptly fired his communications director, Wilhelme Stein, and installed Buckler. Despite initial hope that she would lead a friendly approach to media relations, secretary between Buckler and the press soon followed. Reporters walked out of a press conference when she PMO announced they wouldn't be allowed to question the Prime Minister without putting their names on an official list. Cabinet ministers are seen clearing their throat as much as possible. A report

that fall suggested the PMO had considered building an even media centre—a move that would have rendered the press gallery's facilities moot and shifted all control to the government. Just this month, amid a dispute over access to the Prime Minister's meeting with the press, the press gallery president sent a memo to members that referred to the PMO's ongoing campaign to be "obscured."

Though cabinet ministers John Baird, Peter Van Loan and Jim Flaherty were provided to Mackenzie for comment on this package, asked for an on-the-record interview, he had responded with a terse sentence: "I am not speaking."

Buckler centres her found herself in the middle of Harper's war with the press gallery



"We understand there are many issues that are important to Canadians and our objective is to always communicate on those issues in a disciplined and focused way." For what it's worth, Buckler, who has long dreamed of working at the Langvern Block, is said to be happy in her job. "She's obsessed with Harper better than any communications director I've ever had," exclaims one Harper loyalist. Another government source expresses sympathy for Buckler's tireless work trying to keep two dozen ministers and their press secretaries on message. Plus, he said, she hands out lots of Christmas cards.

There's little question, though, that this government seems committed to announcing absolute control over who speaks, what

they say and what the press gallery is allowed to say. How Buckler traditionally viewed will depend almost entirely on how effective this approach proves to be. Writing in the *Globe and Mail*, Mark Emmert, once press secretary to Brian Mulroney, said the government was all but undermining democracy by subverting the free press. Conversely, an Ottawa's PM Times, Robert Scott, an NDP stalwart currently in communications (whose client list now, confidentially, includes former prime minister Mulroney), applauded a welcome end to the "post-Washington era" of "gossip" journalists and the restoration of a certain balance that was missing when Richard Nixon made bringing down the government the goal of every self-respecting journalist.

In theory, a crackly gallery could prove most problematic on the campaign trail. But then, Harper may have more fully fully fully the fourth estate than most would care to admit. At that press conference last fall, the tone was positively defunct. Aside from a

Buckler centres her found herself in the middle of Harper's war with the press gallery



couple of media remarks, reporters hardly pressed Harper the way they did the leader of the opposition a week later when Stéphane Dion sat in the exact same spot.

And even if Harper hasn't scared the gallery into submission, he likely still needs to look just there. Though hardly an original idea, Team Harper is said to use great value in local media outlets, where reporters, the thinking goes, are just happy to be in a prime minister's presence. In the final days of the last campaign, Harper sat and nodded a series of interviews with regional CTV outlets, recalls that Conservative insider. "For a guy who doesn't like media," he says, "that should tell you something about how he sees them."

BY AARON WHERRY



LYNCH is 'good at the inside game'

★ THE MANDARIN ★

KEVIN LYNCH

GOVERNMENTS COME AND GO, but the better strategy is to stay. Kevin Lynch has been in the way a savvy mandate can advance his interests through successive regime changes. When John Chretien was in power, Lynch used his post as deputy minister of industry to push the productivity pay between Canada and the U.S. onto the federal agenda. When Paul Martin became prime minister, Lynch was the DM of finance who pressed hard to boost business competitiveness. Now the top mind of all, under the Chretien/Conservative, Lynch is a driving force behind the Harper government's shift from economic ministers' grant to more complex, long-term reforms.

A spin of foreign supporters of Canadian companies gave Lynch his opening. But in June 2004, he got "geopolitical" Tories to name a blue-chip panel to look into cooperation and investment policy. Rather than looking to block takeover, however, the panel is studying how to help Canadian firms compete globally and attract investment. Investors see it as Lynch's baby, but his emphasis on helping the private sector makes nearly common ground between politicians and public servants in his fate. "He's good at the inside game," said a top Tory strategist, who added that Harper likes to Lynch's close enough to the "dark side" view to "show a cabinet minister's short-term career prospects."

BY JOHN DESSER

★ THE TEAMMATE ★

JIM PRENTICE

JIM PRENTICE COMES from a proud hockey family. His dad, Len, had a cup of coffee with the Leafs in the early 1960s, and spent some seasons in the minors. Under Len, "the most understood forward of the era," according to the Hockey Hall of Fame website, spent 12 years in the NHL as a steady, run-of-the-mill, forward. Standing next to him, Andy Bagnall and Gordie Howe. So, he, like his dad, is a 20-year-old industry member who's been playing on the team of hockey since the first time.

And he has a ready answer: "I always did what I wanted to do. The penalty kill. Dig out the puck on the power play. Make it in the corner, or take a shot. He's the manager. It's a team effort. Everyone knows that Coach Harper is all about team work, and Prentice is determined to be his most disciplined player." As he says, "an action player on many games as a goal."

It's a role that Prentice's MP's team will soon be looking for. In June 2004, he got a reputation as one of the cabinet's most powerful players, leading a panel of five to look into cooperation and investment policy. Rather than looking to block takeover, however, the panel is studying how to help Canadian firms compete globally and attract investment. Investors see it as Lynch's baby, but his emphasis on helping the private sector makes nearly common ground between politicians and public servants in his fate. "He's good at the inside game," said a top Tory strategist, who added that Harper likes to Lynch's close enough to the "dark side" view to "show a cabinet minister's short-term career prospects."

most of his industry colleagues. "I always try to ensure I have all the information and not cut them from the loop," Prentice says, trying to explain why Harper wants him to be his government. "That's my style."

After an 18-month stint as minister of Indian affairs, where he tackled the residential schools deal and launched an overhaul of the land claims process, Prentice was awarded with the industry portfolio in this government, when Minister Bennett moved to Foreign Affairs. "He seemed a lot like [Jordan] Allen," but he was underwhelmed, says one Tory who's been in the industry since Harper moved to Industry. That's because he's not an ideologue. He's not left, but he doesn't mind using the power of government to the economy. With his characteristic blend of pragmatism and caution, Prentice has made one bold move—defying the big unions by setting aside part of the wireless spectrum for new players—and delayed action on two other contentious bills, copyright reform and foreign aid reform. The coming months, though, should test his mettle, as the Bill C-58 on the new telecommunications regime and more Canadian television under



BLENDING pragmatism and caution has served Prentice well

It's a crucial test for a man with two failed leadership bids (the PCs in 2003, and the merged Conservatives in 2004), who is thought to have ambitions of greater things. "He wants to get underneath to be a prime ministerial candidate in the future, that's an economic portfolio is a vital thing," says a well-connected Ottawa government relations consultant. "Industry is a good place to be. It's finance with fun."

BY JONATHAN OATHEHOUSE

★ THE GLOBETROTTER ★

SUSAN CARTWRIGHT

OUTSIDE THE BORDERS of federal politics and media, Susan Cartwright is perhaps the least well-known of the key players in Stephen Harper's administration. Yet no other bureaucrat and few political staff members worked as intimately as Cartwright on such diverse, high-profile files over the past two years. She was one of two main officers assigned, back in

about her own value to Harper. "People play on an area where in Harper's own people are right," observes a Conservative strategist. "She's played right in there."

Cartwright's perspective has always been global. Born in 1957 in Prince, where her military officer father was serving in NATO, she grew up in Canada and abroad, spending some formative years in New Zealand. Returning home, she studied geography at the University of Victoria and at Waterloo University. She spent the foreign years in 1981, serving for two decades in Norway, Australia, Nigeria, India, Hungary, Slovenia and Albania. She was usually young, not yet 40, when she was made an ambassador.

It's an impressive background, but it doesn't make much to Ottawa's hard-core political set. Asked about her, one Conservative was more bluntly satisfied: Cartwright



CARTWRIGHT'S perspective has always been global

early 2006, to tackle the new government's highest priority, drafting and shepherding into law the massive Federal Accountability Act. After that daunting mission was accomplished, Cartwright was reassigned briefly to Health, and then appointed to her current job as the Prime Minister's top foreign and defence adviser.

To outsiders, it looks like an improbable, even jarring, series of career shifts. But to those who know her, Cartwright's boundary crossing was no surprise. A natural diplomat and an ambassador, she jumped out of the Department of Foreign Affairs and later national Trade in 2001 to take a top policy post at Fisheries. From there she moved to the Treasury Board's Secretariat, the government's usually dry managerial nerve centre, where she was tapped to oversee Harper's sweeping government reform efforts. More than most diplomats, she's learned first-hand how the rest of Ottawa works, but there's no doubt

one underlined by his constant summertime of South America and the Caribbean. But it's Afghanistan, of course, that dominates the foreign and defence agenda. And if there is a question mark over Cartwright's influence, it's on that file. Her predecessor as Harper's foreign and defence adviser in the Prime Minister's Office was David Mulroney, who moved back to Foreign to head up the department's Afghanistan task force. He also initiated Harper's trip for the annual G8 summit. He is an influential policy driver, although Cartwright is now closer to the PM.

And while Mulroney is a formidable foreign affairs expert, Cartwright's move has also evidenced of government reform makes her membership in with, not just in her current role, but as a candidate for just about any top tier position in the public service—as much as what party is in power.

BY JOHN GEDDES

★ THE PIT BULL ★

JOHN BAIRD

"SOME MEMBERS CAN BE TERRIBLE BLAGGERS," explains John Baird. "I'm not a pit bull. I'm not just going to sit there while you whack me, repeatedly. And I give as good as I get."

In fact, the minister of the environment, so often prone to yelling and pointing at other public displays of outrage, is rarely tilted to a easily filled Mission statement. More often, it is a notorious canine that has inspired. "He's a hyper-aggressive pit bull," wrote a Toronto Star reporter when Baird was revealed to his current post. Offered the Prime Minister, "John has his own communication style."

Asked to account for himself, Baird is unapologetically diplomatic. "The old adage I've been known to go a little over the top [but] I think the Prime Minister is comfortable with my style. When he appoints me to this job, he certainly knew what I had done in the last job."

That last job was no less than president of the Treasury Board. The man often was regarded as Harper's second-in-command, squaring off against the Federal Accountability Act,

ALSO: CARTWRIGHT'S WALL THICKENS

the government's first signature piece of legislation. Typically, Baird, Baird bailed out, after it was given royal assent in December 2006, as the "biggest reform" in the history of Canadian government. Notably for Baird, it also offered a chance to publicly demonstrate his primacy, the Conservative working with the similarly well-oiled Pat Murray of the NDP to get the act through Parliament.

The next month, he was named environment minister, charged with managing a perennial weakness for the government. And where his predecessor, the once highly touted Russ Kruttschnitt, appeared overwhelmed, Baird seems emboldened by the burden. Faced with constant criticism from his opposition counterparts and, as the case of recent environmental talks in Bali, withering criticism from environmentalists, Baird has rarely appeared even the least bit chastened or defensive. "I'm tough," he says.

He arrives most days for question period under a binder full of research. After a particularly witty backler in the House of Commons, he will sometimes come up to the press gallery in search of approval. And though obviously more outgoing than the Prime Minister, Baird most certainly speaks in the more combative register as Stephen Harper. Indeed, even when apologizing for conclusions, Baird can be very candid himself.

"I had hoped there could have been greater opportunity to work together and compromise," he laments of the environment. "But I think the challenge is, for any of the three opposition parties, if any one of them was to compromise 50 per cent, the environmental movement and others would be better off all over them. And that's unfortunate."

BY JASON KHEBYT

THE ENVIRONMENT file had been a weak one for the party until Baird stepped in.



★ THE MOUTHPIECE ★

PETER VAN LOAN

LAST SPRING, Stephen Harper faced perhaps the first truly embarrassing revelation of his administration—that the government had quietly hired a stylist to create the Prime Minister's wardrobe. What? After that, the country soon learned that said stylist apparently misinterpreted as a clue victory apparently misinterpreted as a clue victory. The opposition parties were understandably delighted. "Why are Conservatives not telling us they're taking the Tao as a long way for the Prime Minister's powder, mascara and daily pain readings?" quipped Liberal MP Todd Russell.

Not wanting to lower the Prime Minister to such a question, the government did then and has increasingly come to do, sending House Leader Peter Van Loan to the front. "Nobody in this government is consulting jobs," Van Loan quipped, "but I have had suggestions that perhaps I should consult Goya."

This was, of course, the most eloquent Parliamentary reference in recent memory—Cory being Canada's lastest Prime Minister. Van Loan, an account TV personality most famous for his appearances on Entertainment Tonight (See sidebar, page 16), "I have to confess I got this from someone in my office," Van Loan explains. "Believe it or not, I don't watch Entertainment Tonight."

The latest baited bait is one of the few topics beyond Van Loan's purview. Previously president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and a prominent figure in uniting that party with Stephen Harper's Canadian Alliance, Van Loan was named government House leader and minister of democratic reform last January. Though perhaps not as glamorous as Michael Ignatieff or Peter MacKay—Van Loan has been likened to Barney Rubble—his influence and prominence have grown exponentially since then. "When the Prime Minister asked about the government House leader job with me, he said, 'This will not put you in a job to get your hands on everything,'" Van Loan explains.

He's now the government's self-described question period quarterback, strategizing with cabinet ministers beforehand and directing the proceedings from his seat behind

the Prime Minister. When Harper is away, he's the one taking other party leaders' questions. When a government minister is struggling, it's Van Loan who tries to relieve the pressure. He has, at one time or another, handled every file of any importance, proving a sometimes savage force even for this government. "Peter was frustrated he wasn't as subtle as the staff, but he played this card right," says one Conservative. "Particularly during the Mulroney/Schreiber stuff, you saw Van Loan going out head protecting the



VAN LOAN has become the party's question period QB

government and protecting it after that earned him some respect."

That partnership, some lament, has tied over with its dealings with the other parties. "Quite frankly," says Liberal House leader Ralph Goodale, "Mr. Van Loan is not very helpful to the House." As Sandra Schacter is said to fantasize the media, so the House leader is said to arm against the opposition. Ask Van Loan and he'll counter with a claim to simple efficiency. "We got more legislation through in my first six months than we had in the entire previous year." And, one imagines, it is just this attitude that has endeared him to the Prime Minister. Indeed, it is Van Loan who cries foul over the "unacceptable and inappropriate" attacks of the other side. Even when reminded that he called Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty the "small man of Confederation" in a dispute over electoral reform, Van Loan pleads innocence. Or at least justification. "I think I'm always playing defence," he says.

BY JASON KHEBYT

Will the fractious party be able to coalesce around one candidate?

BY MIRA EL SAVAGE • "I'm voting for a conservative," says Steven Benjamin, a 36-year-old Republican voter in Jacksonville, Fla., "who will put the 'conservative' back in conservative." Benjamin, who works in finance, is worried about the weakening economy and the heavy government debt—a combination he blames on the Bush administration's greater tax cuts and profligate spending by Congress, initiated by the presidential veto pen. He is looking for a fiscal conservative who will set things straight.

So far he hasn't found one—despite the multitude of offerings in the Republican presidential field this year. "I haven't wanted to anybody," shrugs Berlusconi, as he stands on a podium and watches another ranting to his fellow Massachusetts governor over Mitt Romney's rally at the University of North Florida. Romney, also a former CEO, has won the contests in Michigan and Nevada, the former victory secured in no small part by his presence in the auto industry of a \$340-million bailout. But in this nation's

within the party. All those elements that made up the so-called Reagan coalition—the social conservatives, fiscal conservatives and foreign policy hawks—have turned on each other. And while they engage in attacks and recriminations, none is as strong Republican as the primary stunner has been far below that of Democrats, suggesting that GOP voters are less than enthusiastic about their options. That, of course, does not bode well for the

servative vote with former Tennessee senator and senior Fred Thompson, who garnered 17 percent in the state (Thompson dropped out of the race three days later).

Perhaps it's not surprising, McCain backed his party to vote against the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003. He has alienated many voters with his attempts to create a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants, and angered others by accus-

fiction speaks of the senator in explosive terms. "He's dead wrong on immigration and that scares me," says McGaughey. "He didn't vote for the Bush tax cuts, and that scares me. He's got liberal positions on two key issues. I see McCain on one side and the other Republican candidates on the other, and I'm worried that because the Republican vote is so split, McCain will win."

But if this is a civil war, McCain isn't the only target. So is Huckabee, the darling of the religious right. He is, like Romney, plays a mean piano, and has pledged to extend the constitution to ban abortion and gay marriage. He recently left some senior Republicans dumbfounded after explaining to an audience in Madison that "I believe it's a lot easier to change the constitution than it would be to change the word of the living God. And that's what we need to do—to amend the con-

children and women dressed to conceal their faces and voices.

The Clinton conservative wing of the party may have been crucial to bringing George W. Bush to the White House in the elections of 2000 and 2004, but its members are finding there are limits to Republican gratitude. The anti-tax, Washington-based legal organization Code for Growth, has spent US\$750,000 on television ads attacking Huckabee in various states, highlighting his support for increased taxes on alcohol, gasoline, cigarettes and internet transactions. While Huckabee's Clinton brand of Republicanism included talk of compassion for illegal immigrants and gays, Code president Pat Toomey has accused him of swindling like a Democratic populist. "Most like John Edwards from Ronald Reagan

has been outside running for the Republican nomination after nearly seven years of Republican rule, but the "big sign behind him says, 'Washington is broken.' He talks a lot about change. "Change begins with us," announces the sign on his campaign bus handed out to supporters for the bus tour of the TV campaign. Change, of course, is the buzzword of the Democratic campaign. "Change We Can Believe In" is Barack Obama's campaign slogan. Hillary Rodham Clinton's is "Ready for Change." Romney's self-concoction about this. He wants to be clear that his "change" would be different, and he makes it with a joke about Obama's campaign sign that says simply, "Change." Chastise Romney. "Someone said to me, 'Change.' That's what you'll have left in your pocket if the president's Laureate all around."

The group has received money from backers of Romney, who is shaping up as the preferred candidate of the business-minded wing of the party. Other conservative groups have also run ads against Huckabee.

Earlier this South Carolina primary, conservative radio celebrity Rush Limbaugh declared his animosity toward both McCain and Huckabee on his show, declaring that "if either of these two guys get the nomination, it's going to destroy the Republican

Romney walks a fine line, trying to appeal to these conservatives fed up with current policies on runaway spending and debt and a driven-out vice, without alienating those who support the President. As with the other candidates, it's often a little hazy whether he is running on the President's record or against it. Huckabee has denounced Bush's foreign policy as "arrogant" and suffering from a "bunker mentality." He has said he supported the President, and was only reluctantly

THE FACTIONS OF THE REAGAN COALITION HAVE TURNED ON ONE ANOTHER

his primary season, Romney took fourth place in South Carolina, where the victor went to maverick Arkansas senator and war hero John McCain, who also won the New Hampshire primary. Former Arkansas governor and Baptist minister Mike Huckabee won in Iowa and was second in South Carolina. Got that?

Call it a truism. With the delegates each Florida primary location on Jan. 28, there is no doubt front-runner—and yet another wild card—to consider: former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani ignored earlier contests and may be making his long-awaited campaign on this date. For Republican primary voters, there are so many options—and yet, in some ways, so few. That's the scattered field of candidates is an intricate battle between competing visions of conservatism. As a result, bitter rivalries between factions have left Republican voters from rallying around any one candidate. There is nothing of a circular firing

general election in November, even as the situation appears quite different in the German state of Hesse—where voters are choosing from candidates they generally say they like, whose policy disputes are a matter of nuance, and whose biggest differences seem to lie in the realm of personality and life experience.

The *divine* Republican coalition is far more complexed. McCain, a scion who has bucked his party on many key issues, won New Hampshire and South Carolina on the strength of registered Independent voters who were allowed to vote in those so-called "open" primaries. Lost in the proclamations of McCain's resurricane in South Carolina was the fact that he did not rattle the Republicans too—depending on the exit poll you read, he either ran to a Mike Huckabee by one point in South Carolina (53 per cent to 52) or just in mercy. And McCain would likely have done even worse if Huckabee had not had to chase these warm local and socially con-

campaign finance reform legislation that conservatives consider an affront to free speech. He backed the National Rifle Association on some issues, and has criticized

The scintillated field and McGan's victory fractured Mike McGuigan, a 46-year-old real-estate broker and her owner from Fort Myers, Fla., who like many in the "anyone-but-McCain" crowd, had been convinced that McCain would be the one to lead the charge.



amounts to it's in God's standards rather than try to change God's standards so it lines up with some contemporary view." His shoe-string campaign was helped to victory in Iowa in part by "Huck's Army"—thousands of volunteers who showed up from around the country to make phone calls and organize supporters. They included home school-

A man in a white tank top and dark pants is the central figure, possibly a performer or dancer, in a crowded setting. He is surrounded by other people, some of whom are also in similar attire, suggesting a social or entertainment event.

party, it's going to change it forever, be the end of it. A lot of people aren't going to vote 'Barack'." McCain and Huckabee then came in first and second in the race.

For a while now, Bush has been blamed for blowing up the Reagan coalition, even inspiring a cottage industry of books on how conservatives can be saved from Bushism.

the immigration, he was with big business and McCain, pushing for an immigration reform that would allow people who came to the country illegally to stay. While Bush appealed to neo-conservatives through his faith-based initiatives and should've been hefty tax cuts, he presided over a vast increase in government spending on wars and a large prescription drug benefit for seniors. The combination has propelled the country into massive debt. And his interventionist foreign policy, so costly in both blood and treasure has tilted conservatives who would prefer to

"Bush is not a conservative. He is an extremist," says Fernandez at the Romney rally. "Big government, big spending, more intervention in your life and in other countries. That sounds like a liberal, doesn't it? Bush's latest move, to offer a \$150-billion stimulus package for the ailing U.S. economy, looks

in the form of no-hesitate, worries Benjamin even more. "There is only one way out of debt. You have to stop spending and pay it back. You can't do stupid things like give tax rebates. It's like a bleeding man giving more blood," he says, shaking his head.

Without mentioning Bush by name, Romney allows at one point that whatever one thinks of the President's policies, "He has

Romney's very blond wife, Ann, is there to bolster his family values pitch with talk of their 18-year marriage, their five sons, and their 11 grandchildren. She's also there to testify that at his career he turned around failing companies and made the dysfunctional Salt Lake City Winter Olympics into a money-maker. "He wants to go to Washington and clean up the mess there. He is a

But as for Romney, he's still struggling with social conservatives, who accuse him of flip-flopping on abortion and gay rights—ranging in a social moderate when he campaigned in liberal Massachusetts to an embrace of his career, and then deciding that he had changed his mind. Still others—including many evangelical Christians—don't approve of his Mormon religion. Romney never mentions that he's a Mormon, but he cautions the family values crowd with praise for the American family and his dedication that kids should get married before making babies. Then there is his not nearly-same-level-around 13,000 million, some of which he has been pouring into his campaign, and a sum that gives him hope in a contest that could turn into a war of attrition. When Blackstone tells voters he's "the guy you work alongside, not the guy who gives you the pickpocket," it's Romney he's got in mind. Romney tries to make up for his wealth, and a childhood as the son of a divorcee governor of Michigan, with an unshakable manner and stories of his father's humble roots. He's also the self-deprecating husband, joking that when he asked his wife whether in her wildest dreams she'd ever imagined him running for president of the U.S., "She said, 'Mitt, you weren't in my wildest dreams.'" Laughter fills around.

Meanwhile, Clinton, who has guided his whole campaign on his leadership role as "America's mayor" who rolled a coalition after 9/11, and his track record among them up by thousands foreign policy, has been stomping around Florida longer than anyone. But he's having trouble with the family values trafficking, pro-choice, pro-gay control, and environmentalist. "Clinton would be great on defense, but he's a very liberal guy," says Richard Ashley, a 50-year-old accountant from Jacksonville who hasn't picked a candidate yet. "He doesn't mesh up with my views. He is a one-time candidate and his personal baggage will come back to haunt him." Adds Norm Blum, a 52-year-old owner of a Jacksonville advertising company and a registered independent who has come to check out Romney: "I don't do the Obama because he can't get along with his kids. I'm sorry, but that bothers me."

In the end it remains to be seen whether they can find a candidate who would share Barack Obama's appeal to all factions of the party. What really matters is whether Limbaugh's warning of disgruntled Republicans saying home in November comes to pass. McCain, the McCain comes from Fort Myers, says that if McCain ends up the nominee, he'll "squeal howl and hiss and head to the polls." "I would vote for him—reluctantly," he says. "He would be the loser of two wars against Hillary or Obama." ■



A SCENE FROM *Elite Squad*. The controversial film, which depicts police torturing drug addicts, has fueled the debate over drug violence

WHERE EVEN THE GOOD ARE BAD

Violence in Rio is escalating—and police are part of the problem

BY SHARIL VINCENT • Last year, on the first day of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro—an event that has become the "biggest party in the world"—the samba drums were quiet as the city's favelas and slums paraded. Instead, the costumed revelers stood with their heads bowed for a minute of silence to remember all the victims of violence in the city. This February's celebration, after a year that witnessed its own greater escalation in blood shed, much of it linked to drugs, promises to be no different.

Carnival itself, the world-famous pre-Lenten celebration, has long been associated with violence and drug mafias, who finance many of the samba schools or clubs that perform in the parades. Carnival, which began in the first week of February last week, Maria Lora, the president of the *Vandor* samba school, was gunned down while his samba club in the middle of the afternoon. Brazil

law authorities have tried to curb the gambling and unprotected crime in the city, although no official move has been ascribed for the shooting that has been dying in life in favela hospitals, surrounded by well-armed security detail. Similarly, a few days before last year's Carnival began, officers shot dead the vice-president of the *Salgado* samba school and his wife.

Violence has long been a feature of Carnival because the celebrations are largely the product of the 700 shantytowns—or favelas—that ring the city, and which are torn apart by the drug mafias that control them. Favela *Paulista* (Jesus Moreira is allegedly one of those drug traffickers. He is also the co-author of the samba for one of the city's most famous samba clubs). According to police internal gang reports released to *O Globo* newspaper last week, *Teddy* (aka, who is known in his shantytown, writes members his makes an estimated \$100,000 per week from the sale of drugs through the networks of the samba school in the weeks leading up to Carnival.

But the violence is not restricted to Car-

naval. Rio, a city of six million, has one of the highest homicide rates in the world. And for Brazil overall, a recent UNESCO report showed that, over the last decade, the death rate from gunshots was higher than in most of the world's war zones. Last year there were 40,000 firearm fatalities in this country of 196 million, fully four times the number in the United States. So pervasive is the violence (Brazil's rate of gun deaths is not second only to Venezuela in the Americas) that a trial of Rio's seven sergeants was recently down to force to share their emergency room techniques with police officers in one of the most troubled areas of the world.

While before Carnival, law enforcement authorities in Rio began embracing themselves for a new wave of violence in the favelas. Much of Rio's gun bloodshed, in fact, does to confront them in between police and drug lords in the favelas. Indeed, a raging national debate about urban violence and drugs has been generated by Brazilian filmmaker *José Padilha*, whose latest film, *Elite Squad* (*Tropa de Elite*), is the story of a convicted police officer who murders and kills drug dealers in an attempt to stem the violence that has become a fact of daily life in Rio.

Elite Squad details the actions of the BOPE, the Battalion for Special Police Operations (*Batalhão de Operações Policiais Especiais*), originally created to deal with a wave of lat-

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ripping between almost entirely contented with drug trafficking. The film depicts police treating their officers in order to obtain information—usually in Brazil. While in 1997 law has the use of torture, which was pretty much institutionalized under Brazil's military governments and during centuries of slavery, human rights groups have denounced the use of police torture.

The film also shows small-time drug dealers burning a prisoner by scorching their stomachs and setting him on fire. It has dominated the front pages, and caused widespread uneasiness about why huge swaths of Brazil are controlled by drug dealers fighting an almost daily battle with those specially trained units of the military police, who are in many cases underpaid and corrupt.

Elite Squad had to world premiere in the Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival last fall, and many have praised it for its gritty depiction of reality. But others have called it an apology for the BOPE, whose members sport black tank tops bearing a skull with crossed pistols in their symbol and often wear masks when they conduct their operations in Rio's favelas. Arraújo Bloch, a leading columnist for *O Globo* newspaper, called *Elite Squad* a "mission" film that glorifies police brutality. Hugo Arens-Velosoque, the former Colombian security chief who helped stem urban violence in his country's capital of Bogotá, said he hated Padilha's film when he saw it on a recent trip to Brazil. "The police in the film walk the small and medium traffickers, which does not make any sense," he said in an interview. "Violence only incites more violence."

WITH CARNAVAL ALMOST HERE, THE AUTHORITIES ARE BRACING FOR A NEW WAVE OF BLOODSHED IN THE SHANTYTOWNS OF RIO



Padilha, whose family avoid winning 2002 documentary *Bus 174* (Bus 174), told the story of the violent hijacking of a bus on an upper-class Rio neighborhood in July 1960, leading to the suggestion that he is sensitive to ongoing police violence with *Elite Squad*, co-produced by Harvey Weinstein's company (as indicated for a North American release this month) and will also be featured in some person at the Berlin film festival in February. "Elite Squad shows the point of view of a police officer in the BOPE," said Padilha, 41. "To look to many police officers and people outside to understand how a military police officer really thinks the world. Why does he carry? Why does he kill?"



SLOVENIA: PICKLED VERMIN ARE 'SPECIAL'

When pickle buyer Luka Komarac discovered a particularly sick one he was horrified to find it wasn't just inside. He thought her complaint to the Ministry of Health would bring an official call to action. Instead, officials called the sort a "special addition." From a military apocryphal: "It's completely normal to buy vegetables to have nice wandering around and, yes, they do get botched and seasoned and preserved. They pose no health threat."

POLICE FIGHTING CLASHES WITH DRUG TRAFFICKERS, AND VIOLENCE SPREADS RAPIDLY, LEADING TO A SERIES OF SHOOTING INCIDENTS KILLED LAST YEAR

lar work." Police officers are mostly underpaid and poorly trained—all equipped to deal with the violence that confronts them daily, Pinheiro said. Five years later the situation hasn't changed in Rio, a police officer earns between US\$300 and US\$500 per month to carry out some of the most dangerous missions in areas that resemble war zones.

The reality depicted in *Elite Squad* has appeared to touch a raw nerve in Rio and in the rest of Brazil. Weeks before the film opened across the country in October, nearly 12 million people had already seen it on paid DVD. According to a poll by the weekly *Veja* magazine, 72 percent of respondents said that drug traffickers got what they deserved in the film, although 51 percent said that more should not be used to obtain information. Seventy-nine percent said they felt the film portrayed the police in their reality as some upstanding, others corrupt.

Although the film is a fictional narrative, police officers in Rio demanded that Padilha identify all the officers who helped him

with his research, and tried to get a court order to ban the film. Padilha says he interviewed no fewer than 30 police officers over the course of three years in order to create the film's protagonist, Capt. Roberto Nascimento, played by Brazilian actor Wagner Moura in a black hat. Padilha refused to cooperate with the police, and, in the end, Rio de Janeiro's mayor Governor Sérgio Cabral banned the film, calling it a lie that incites violence.

For many Rio residents, it was difficult to ignore the violence that was once restricted to the favelas but has lately spilled over into the rest of the city. Bloodshed now reaches every neighborhood, and no longer held at bay by the tough walls and fences that appear on the film. Residents must avoid their expensive apartment blocks. On Dec. 16, drug traffickers fired on a helicopter carrying Santa Cruz and pressed for children in

a nearby district. They'd mistaken it for a police helicopter. (No one was injured.) The press was miffed, a 12-year-old boy at an elite sports facility in the tiny Alto Leblon neighborhood became the latest victim of a stray bullet. Hugo Moura Cavalcante was a soccer pitch in mid-afternoon when a bullet, shot from more than 500 m away, lodged in his brain. He died days later in hospital. The police continue their investigation, and insist that the bullet came from a nearby shantytown, although ballistics experts say the bullet was probably fired from a .47-caliber gun, which is regularly used by military reservists, not traffickers.

A few months ago, parents at an elite private school in Rio received a notice from the principal informing them that the school's staff had all been trained in emergency protocols. They knew what to do, the principal assured everyone, if drug traffickers from the favela adjacent to the school began a shoot-out with police during school hours. The principal's bulletin was in response to a wave of violence last April that saw 19 people die in a single day's confrontations between the BOPE and criminals in another shantytown close to the school. Authorities closed down one of the tunnels that connects Rio's north entrance to the more affluent southern zone, leaving many children trapped in their school buses for hours.

While Padilha is critical of both the police and the drug traffickers in his film, he also argues. Rio's officers, who bear the brunt of the action behind high walls and fences and are often active daily violence in their city—although usually they and their children who buy the drugs that spawn the violence, he says. During Carnival, the consumption of cocaine and marijuana was exponentially, according to law enforcement officials. "The fact is that if you buy marijuana in a favela, you are contributing to a system that terrorizes the population," says Padilha, noting that in Rio, favelas are surrounded by big gangs of drug dealers who often employ children as hitmen and couriers. These children are often victims of a vicious cycle. Denied an education because they have to help support their families, they get involved in the drug trade.

Many end up dead. "The drug dealers are armed to a point now where if you go into their favela to fight them, many of our people die because they get caught in the crossfire," Padilha said, adding that his message was not to glorify but to expose by traffickers during filming in a Rio favela. "But then again, if you don't go in and take over, the drug traffickers simply terrorize the people and become the law. So, what do you do?" ■

ARMCHAIR SPIES



CHENE, ALABAMA, Korea, India, Korea? These languages are 18 weeks to learn CIA officials.

The CIA's failures are due to one major factor: lousy fieldwork

BY MICHAEL PETERSON • In 1980, some 3,000 men separated Osama bin Laden from Britain's most sensitive stronghold in India. Over the next hundred years, in Russia's forest and informal empire, the CIA's core would shrink, in place, to little more than the breadbasket of the Soviet Union. The British left a threat to their status as the world's most powerful superpower. To contain and contain Russia's expansion in the Americas and long-term Central Asia, they dispatched scores of explorers who were willing to absorb their education, learn local languages and customs, and live in penurious conditions in order to understand and subvert Russia's ambitions. The cost of this effort was the Great Game.

Each man embodied the likes of Arthur Conolly, who once travelled overland from Moscow to India via the Caucasus and Herat. On spring missions in Central Asia, he often disguised himself and took on the identity of "Khan Ali," a schoolboy working on his family name. Conolly's story (which ended badly, with his beholding after incarceration in the "big pit" of Babel) is worth recalling here to illustrate what a comparatively small job the United States has done in spying since taking over the reins from Britain as the leading Western power.

The Central Intelligence Agency was created in 1947 to protect America from another Pearl Harbor by understanding threats as they develop and anticipating climate events before they happen. Since then, despite countless billions of dollars, the CIA has managed virtually every significant world-changing development, from the Soviets acquiring an atomic bomb, to the Korean War, the Iranian revolution, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union's collapse. In the fall of 2001, 20-year-old Osama bin Laden was captured in Afghanistan. A California family out of his town had done what the CIA could not—prevent the Taliban.

"The real problem for the CIA is recruiting and training Americans willing to devote their lives to spying," wrote Tom Whitely, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*, a brilliant and devastating book published last year. "It is, in a word, talent. It has been for six decades."

Very few CIA officers speak and read Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu or Farsi—languages spoken by half the world's population. Few have ever haggled in an Arab bazaar or so much as walked through an African village. On the eve of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the CIA employed some 12,000 people. Yet, when asked, "the great majority of them were desk jockeys. They were trained to drink dirty water and sleep on steel floors. They were

point, says Roger Duesen, director of the Economic Policy Center at Georgia State University. Instead, he describes this as a so-called "wealth recession" that gradually kills a virtue, causing consumers to dramatically reduce their spending for the long run. "Recessions are like broken bones," says Duesen. "They annihilate you, but if you do the therapy, you can get back on your feet again. But this may be more like a problem with your circulatory system that requires you to do different things to get back in shape. It can take a long time."

There are still many who believe China, India, Canada and a handful of other countries are effectively inoculated against this kind of financial virus. The consensus among most Bay Street economists is that Canada's growth rate will slow slightly this year, but the domestic economy will avoid recession as long as growth in China and India picks

ness factors have diversified their trade in recent years, exports to the U.S. still represent roughly 10 per cent of the total Chinese economy. The bottom line is simple: If the mighty U.S. consumer market, millions will be dragged down in its wake. And that, in short, is why practically every major stock market around the globe is hanging on the line to news out of Washington. "I expect this whole coupling idea," Kennedy says, "It's a pleasant fiction, but China and the rest of the world are still just too dependent on U.S. demand. It's awful thinking."

A sharp slowdown at Asian demand would certainly hobble the market for commodities like oil, copper and other basic metals that have fueled Western Canada's boom. The economy in Ontario and Quebec is even more directly exposed to any downturn in consumer spending. Already, Canadian manufacturers are struggling to cope with the effects

It's a story that even the usually opaque federal government has begun to acknowledge. This week, David Gaudin, a spokesman for the Department of Finance, said that Canada is "not immune" to the economic fallout in our south. Indeed, small cracks in our economic resiliency have already begun to appear. In December, the economy shed 18,700 jobs after seven straight months of hiring, and when the Bank of Canada cut its interest rates on Tuesday, it signalled plans to scale back its growth forecasts for both Canada and the U.S. on the days ahead.

All of which brings us back to Bush's Hal Mary pass to U.S. consumers. If Congress moves quickly, the check could start arriving by spring. Will that restore flood of free cash and rock-bottom interest rates send people running to the malls and save the economy again, just like in 2001 when Bush slashed taxes after 9/11? Or will it

THE QUESTION IS, HOW MUCH OF THIS DEBT IS TRULY TOXIC?



up demand for oil, base metals and other commodities. So far, there is much to support their optimism. As bad as the economic numbers have been in the U.S., Canada has held up well. Unemployment is still near his stork lows, retail sales clocked in modest gains in December, and the domestic housing market remains a picture of health compared to its American counterpart.



HERRILL LYNCH'S DAVID ROSENBERG says the U.S. recession has already begun, and its consequences will not be under a microscope of global effects until the effects will be felt worldwide.



Now, it seems, is there anywhere in the world to find: ■ —Wish Jason Korte

ARTICLE 10. CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABLE. INFORMATION. 1. The table shall be constructed in accordance with the following provisions:

SOLE SURVIVAL

How much air is left in Nike's world-famous Jordan brand?

BY JOHN TISH For JoJo Williams, it all started in the fall of 1999 with a pair of black and red high-top shoes. His first for Jordan No. 10? Not the world's most famous sneaker store, was a gift to himself for making the high school basketball team. He wore that pair out—on and off the court—and every year since, Williams, now a manager at a boutique sneaker shop in New York City, has purchased at least one pair of the newest Jordans available. His shoe collection grew so large that recently, to reclaim some closet space after getting married, the 19-year-old had to relocate most of it from his cramped Brooklyn apartment to a nearby storage unit a few blocks away.

Selling to the new Jordan XGIs to displace like Villanueva, who grew up wanting to be like Mike, a boy. It doesn't hurt that the show, being rolled out in three limited-run waves over the next few weeks as the last in the series, an assumption based on the fact that Michael wore jersey No. 23. The harder sell for Nike are the kids who have only ever seen Jordan compete in high-glitze runs and charity golf tournaments. The former Chicago Bull hasn't played since 1993, and he's not even the most famous of the dunking gods to the early '90s, who were more being "rolled" for their Jordan and often literally killed for a pair. The challenge for Nike, aside from the next so-impossible task of finding an "A" opponent, is keeping their old war over raised yet relevant.

Is an obvious attempt to keep their big money maker current, Nike has looked for ties to recent years with several of their other bankable stars. New York Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter, light heavyweight boxer Roy Jones Jr. and Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony all have their very own signature series of Air Jordans. The key is finding athletes who see "Jordan's Nike," says Paul Swanson, the marketing director at the Uni-



THE FOCUS WILL NEED TO BE ON THE MYTH OF MICHAEL



THE AIR JORDAN XXIs might be the last in the series, inspired by Michael Jordan

sniffing our countdown packs—each comes with two pairs of retro Air Jordans, their size and numbers tailored 33 (e.g. X and XX) will be packaged together). In the cover that XX) is the final pair of basketball shoes, special editions will likely follow in the years to come, keeping sneaker fanatics happy and stretching Jordan's name-stain well into old age, says Robert Kozmenko, a marketing professor at Trent University, who compares the 14 years of Air's global appeal with that of Ethel and Marilyn Jordan at middle age. "My ethnicity is definitely the industry yet again. If Nike handles it well, Jordan could become sport's first bona-fide brand—one that gets even stronger the further his playing days fade from memory. ■

EMPLOYEE
OF THE
WEEK

FIRING IN ONE TOWN, FIRED IN ANOTHER

After Jessica Blazynski was fired from a job as administrative clerk in Hockaday, N.H., for allegedly gossipping about her boss, she moved to a full-time job in the police department in nearby Goffstown. Her hopes of successfully suing her former employer for unfair dismissal got a nice boost last week when her Goffstown supervisors nominated her for their employee-of-the-year award, which comes with a \$500 prize and an extra week of holidays.

[Innovation in Action]

What's Next? Your Future in Social Networking

When most people think of online "social networks," they tend to think of Facebook, MySpace and YouTube. More and more, however, online social networking is pointing the way to new forms of communication and new ways of doing business. In an interview for *Maclean's* readers, Chuck Hamilton, New Media and Learning Leader for IBM's 3D Internet Division, explores the new frontier of virtual networking.



◀ Chuck Hamilton,
New Media and
Learning Leader
for IBM's 3D
Internet Division

“Social networks are emerging as key tools for business innovation.”

Q Help us understand what social networking is all about.

A People in every industry are aggregating in virtual forums, all around the world. These networks are emerging as key tools for business innovation. Social networks allow businesses to collaborate with all kinds of people, with diverse backgrounds and different levels of expertise, from locations all over the world.



Q How are businesses taking advantage of social networks today?

A Companies are using social networking today to connect with affinity groups. If you're an insurance, for example, you want to know what your customers are worried about. What do they need as the way of insurance services? Today you can reach out to that community and discuss these issues.

Other companies are taking their designs and putting them on the Web for people to explore. They are

using these global collaboration tools for product design and software development.

Q What opportunities do virtual worlds bring?

A Virtual worlds really are an example of a whole new space evolving. Millions of online users, usually representing themselves as "avatars," going to a new space, online, to meet and interact. And real business is taking place.

Virtual spaces enable us to deal with things we couldn't before. For example, you can build things that you would not normally be able to produce, such as a complete oil rig that your avatars can actually walk through. You can build a model and simulate the entire experience of being there. Up till now we've not been able to put 2,000 virtual people in one virtualized virtual space at one time and try something out. This is going to be a hot topic for businesses for the next few years.

Virtual worlds are quickly becoming a powerful tool and a driving force as to what many are calling the 3D Internet—one that is open, innovative, innovative, and social. We believe it will enable new or transformed applications for business and society, many of which we can't even imagine yet.

Q Are there business benefits to using social networks?

A Virtual social technologies reduce the cost of doing business. You can pull together an innovation very, very quickly by leveraging thoughts and expertise from around the world.

For instance, a large hotel chain has built its own hotels in Second Life so re-imagine a new brand. They're modifying their hotel designs based on suggestions from

their users and how they react to these virtual models.

Q It sounds like science fiction...

A But it's happening all around us. Many Canadians are now spending time in virtual space using avatars like Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and MySpace. There are big virtual "game" worlds such as World of Warcraft, or Club Penguin for children, a great Canadian example that was recently sold to Disney. These concepts are very common in the youth market, so I think people in the future are going to be very familiar with these kinds of virtual worlds.

And IBM is helping companies attract and screen potential new employees through virtual world environments. We're working with national retailers to replicate new store designs that will transform the shopping experience. We can show their customers how new products will look in their home by creating virtual kitchens and simulated home theaters.

Canada has been the leader in virtual thinking for a long time. We were one of the first countries to put together Internet banking systems, and we will be one of the leading countries to use virtual collaboration, if only because of our dispersed geography.

To view the interview, please visit www.macleans.ca/ibm

Register for the Innovation in Action Online Summit, May 13, 2008

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SUBS

The chiselled features of a good CEO

BY KATE KENNEDY • Forget the soul, the eyes may be the windows to earnings. Or so says a new study out of Tufts University, whose researchers found the more powerful-looking the CEO, the more profitable their firm. Almost 100 students were shown pictures of 50 corporate leaders and asked to rate them based on the appearance of "power" (see



RESEARCHERS say a powerful-looking face predicts success

perspective, dominance, and facial maturity) and "winnability" (likeability and trustworthiness). A separate group was asked whether or not the CEOs would make a good leader. Nicholas Raine and Dr. Maja Ambady found that the higher a CEO was rated in perceived leadership and authority, the more profitable their company was.

That is, CEO performance depended on the opinions of the leaders themselves or people who knew them, says Raine. But his and Ambady's report, which will be published in the journal *Psychological Science* in February, is based on the opinions of people who had no prior knowledge of the executives' abilities. "These first impressions and guesses are actually in a sense more accurate," says Raine. "They're not biased by having too much information." (Such can unknowingly under-estimate how predicted profits.)

Even though the CEOs were all white, middle-aged men, the students must have picked up on something, says Ambady. That "special something" probably wasn't charm. The big guys who ranked highly in "winnability" didn't tend to produce better profits. But for all the study may tell us about effective management, it also leads to an inevitable "CEO and the ego" question—does the powerful-looking executive make the profits, or do the profits make the executive look powerful? ■

How popular kids get paid on the Web

BY KATE KENNEDY • Social networking is an increasingly crowded corner of the Internet business, but Larry Rogers thinks he has the secret to being more than just another Facebook on the crowd: money for nothing. Young.com built like a viral firefly MySpace and has a fraction of the mega site's users. But it's planning to grow by offering members a (very) small percentage of the advertising revenue it takes in each month, based on how many hits each member's page attracts and how many new members they get to join. "MySpace is making \$20, 30, 40 million a month and they're keeping all that. Users are the ones that are doing all the work," says Rogers, who was the first out of Tufts on O'Mahoney. In December, then-regional USMC (2008) dated out to Young's partner.

While Rogers says users retain ownership of their content, others are skeptical of the new revenue-sharing model. "The notion of getting paid to surf when everything else is free tends to raise your little alarm bells," says Juan Nunez, an expert on social networking technologies at Rensselaer University. "People tend to lag in [accepting] without over-relying on the net policies, privacy policies, and terms of agreement."

Rogers says the concerns are unfounded. "We don't charge our members anything, at any time, and we don't have plans to," he says. "That's why it's not a pyramid scheme—you don't pay any money in."

Young has almost 425,000 members, and over 50,000 have signed up on its own site. But can personal profit boost "community-focused" networks?

"Think of eBay," says Amel Qasbi Huse, a professor of media studies at the University of Western Ontario. "People spend hours on eBay just to make a couple of bucks. It may be that there are two different kinds of users. One group will enjoy the Facebook nature of the environment and there may be another group that may be actually interested in making a couple of dollars."

Either way, here to read the fine print. ■

Kahnawake poker barons come up short



U.K. authorities rejected MIT's bid to be an approved gaming host

BY MARTIN PATRICKSON • Though illegal under Canadian law, the Kahnawake Gaming Commission has made much of its right to host the world's online gaming traffic at its facilities near Montreal. Roughly 60 percent of the world's online gambling takes place across the servers of Mohawk Internet Technologies, which is wholly owned by the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake.

But MIT's legitimacy suffered a serious setback last week when Britain's Department for Culture, Media and Sport refused to put the company on its "white list" of approved gaming hosts. Only those on the list can legally advertise throughout the European Union—futile ground for online casinos ever since the United States effectively outlawed their gaming within its borders. "Given Kahnawake's long-standing reputation as the world leader in Internet regulatory compliance and enforcement, it is disheartening to realize word that [MIT] efforts will not be afforded the same consideration that has been extended to Teramont, which has no such history," wrote General Chief Mike Delisle following the decision. Delisle says Teramont's rejection made reference to a letter from Quebec's Justice Department, suggesting the provincial government was trying to acquire Kahnawake's application.

Though the British gaming authority didn't give a reason for its decision, several gaming experts have pointed to the recent scandal involving Absolute Poker, owned by former Kahnawake grand chief Joe Nottone, as a possible sticking point. Joe Absolute Poker employer last year locked out the site and seized players' funds, taking up millions of thousands of dollars in winnings. In the wake of last year's report, the ongoing Mohawk Gaming Commission investigation, which resulted in a \$100,000 fine for Absolute Poker, did little to reassure British regulators. ■



YOWIE pays a portion of ad revenue to the site's members

THE POLAR BEAR

Who's telling the truth about the fate of a Canadian icon?

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
AND KATE LUNAD

In the cold, dark days of January, when the sun peeks over the southern horizon for just an hour each afternoon, Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., is little more than a sprinkling of light on the edge of the icy Beaufort Sea. But to someone as it is, events in the south loom large here. A daily inflow of news reports about polar bears and the deadly toll of global warming comes streaming via satellite dishes throughout this tiny community of 800 almost as readily as the snow outside. "Just about every day you see something on TV about bears," says Chucky Gruben, an Inuit hunter, "so much of it is really—"

Gruben's dog yawn nudges to life as he walks up, snow crunching loudly underfoot,

and makes a few sharp whistles into the frigid, Arctic air. It's -51° C with the wind chill, cold enough to cancel school in Tuk, and no one is having thoughts of global warming. The heavy dogs, a few of which are actually half wolf, says Gruben, seem miraculously breezy and content in the icy weather. The scene is what Gruben uses to hunt polar bears, taking Anarmanuk dogs out on the ice for as long as two weeks for their chance to get a shot at a big 11-foot male bear whose machines will be rusty, he says, but dog teams outrun the bears have a fighting chance and that the hunt maintains an ancient elegance.

There's no hunting planned on this day, as even that month, Grub crosses each annual pole of frozen Arctic tundra, and heads for home a few hundred yards away. Back in his house, which sits on stilts overlooking Tuk Harbour, Gruben prepares his own hash of frozen roach, and caribou and onion salad. Later, he's been aimlessly walking for news from Washington, a world away

from the place where the Arctic Circle, over whether or not the polar bear will be listed as a threatened species in the U.S. A listing would almost certainly end the polar bear sport hunt by barring U.S. hunters from bringing their trophies back across the border (about 100 sport hunters get a chance to shoot a polar bear in Canada each year). And it would take as much as \$60,000 out of his pocket, says Gruben, who has permits to take our two sport hunters this winter, each of whom would pay as much as \$30,000 to go on what is considered the world's most challenging hunt.

Whether or not the hunt is needed, what troubles Gruben most is the assurance that the bears are in need of protection at all. So far, he says, polar bear numbers have been just fine. "If something goes wrong here, we'll know. We live it," says the 50-year-old who went on his first bear hunt with his father when he was in a 1½ month trek with kids more than 15 dogs, some floor, and sugar. Gruben may not be a biologist, but he's surely

one of the world's foremost experts on the polar bear—few have spent more time around the animals than he has. "Some biologists have studied bears for 30 years, but how long have they spent on the ice? Who in the government gang is brave?"

Outside the Arctic, the general opinion on polar bears, the noble animals that prowled the ice from Canada to Alaska to Russia, is that they are going the way of the dodo thanks to global warming. Bears need ice to hunt seals, their primary food source, say scientists. If the ice melts, the bears are in big, big trouble. As an increasingly vocalized, the major worry of the world's polar bear could be wiped out in just 40 years if the ice keeps melting at many experts. Another report said: heavy human hunting to commercial—and as much pressure that they are heavily eating much other alive. In Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* slide show, one lonely bear is pictured swimming in the open ocean. "There's nothing—beautiful animals, literally being forced off the planet," said Gore.



bear populations were badly depleted—by some estimates, there was as few as 500. Today, worldwide, there are closer to 25,000. Evidence, say some biologists, of a species that has been remarkably well managed bears may be strong as a result of global warming (or maybe not), but the long-term impact, not to mention the number crunching, is still a matter of some speculation. "What if this great story, that everybody's bought into, like real shark, proves to be more complicated?" wonders Mitchell Taylor, a recently retired biologist in Nanavut who studied polar bears for 30 years.

Beyond the commercial science, huge politics are also at play, adding even more competing voices to the tug of war over the bear. The move to list the bear is threatened under the Endangered Species Act, a process that began over a year ago, is a calculated move by environmental groups to pressure the U.S. government to act on global warming. If the bear is deemed "threatened" by the Department of the Interior, then the U.S. must protect habitats from drastic change as well as controversial oil and gas development in Alaska. A decision was supposed to come down on Jan. 9, but was delayed for a month. In the meantime, the U.S. has moved ahead with plans to lease oil exploration rights in Alaska's polar bear country, citing environmentalists who have public opinion firmly on their side. "I don't have to explain to people why they should care about the polar bear," says Kaitlin Sigel of the Center for Biological Diversity, which launched the petition to list the polar bear. "They already do."

With all these competing interests, the polar bear has become the latest flag pawn of an economic survival war that makes previous struggles, like the one over the hump whale, seem like child's play. Caught in the middle are the Inuit, who not only rely on the bear for money, but who see one of their great sources of their culture under threat. On top of this, they haven't been offered any sort of support from the Canadian government, which seems content to sit safely on the sidelines, watching neither the environmentalists nor the commercial governments of Russia and the Northwest Territories are both fighting the U.S. listing. The polar bear wars are pitting scientists against scientists, environmentalists against governments, and Inuit against all of them. Worse still, whether any of this will do much to improve the state of the polar bear is anyone's guess.



UNFORTUNATE Chucky Gruben, an Inuit hunter, will lose \$40,000 a year if the U.S. lists the bear as threatened.

as safely as the sidelines, watching neither the environmentalists nor the commercial governments of Russia and the Northwest Territories are both fighting the U.S. listing. The polar bear wars are pitting scientists against scientists, environmentalists against governments, and Inuit against all of them. Worse still, whether any of this will do much to improve the state of the polar bear is anyone's guess.

PAUL LEE/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM; GRUBEN/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

PHOTOGRAPH BY COLIN CAMPBELL

At some point early this winter, in the Barents Sea north of Tuktoyaktuk, a massive chunk of sea ice broke off the west coast of Banks Island, heading in the direction of Siberia. The shifting of ice ice packs away from the coast is normal, but never has such a dramatic break been observed. This feature is worrisome to many scientists, not only for what it may say about the ongoing effects of climate change, but for how it may impact polar bears. The area of shifting ice was a polar bear refuge in the summer of 2007, according to Andrew Derocher, the chair of the World Conservation Union's polar bear specialist group and a professor of biological sciences at the University of Alberta. For him, the implications are clear: "Polar bears habitat is disappearing," he says.

It's no secret the Arctic is changing. From 1979 to 2006, average temperatures there increased 3.6 degrees, compared to a global increase of 0.7 degrees, according to David Barber, director of the Center for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba. But 2007 shattered all previous records. In that year, roughly 3.5 million sq. km of Arctic sea melted—a huge leap from the yearly average of 70,000. "We've never seen a rapid decline like this before," says Barber. "The sea ice community is very concerned."

Some experts—including Louis Fortner, so-called director of Canadian research group ArcticNet—suggest the Arctic Ocean could be ice-free in the summers as early as 2030. The consequences, Fortner says, would be huge. "That sea ice cover has persisted for the last 3.7 million years," he notes. Because the ice acts like a giant mirror, bouncing the sun's rays back into space, its disappearance will likely accelerate the warming trend.

If you're a bear used to living in sub-zero temperatures and roaming vast expanses of ice and snow to hunt seal, the idea of a warm, watery Arctic sounds like very bad news indeed. "I firmly believe that polar bears are threatened," says Derocher. He's by no means alone. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency that will recommend to the U.S. government whether or not to list the bears as threatened, cites declining sea ice as "the primary threat" to polar bear survival.

Last September, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—the scientific arm of the Department of the Interior—released a report aimed at helping the Fish and Wildlife Service reach a decision on whether to list the polar bear. The findings were astounding: further reductions of Arctic sea ice could result in the loss of approximately two-thirds of the world's polar bears by 2050. And this projection might actually be conservative, notes USGS polar bear project leader Steve Amstrup, since sea ice is declining faster than previously

predicted. "The amount looks pretty severe for polar bears," he says.

These dramatic projections attracted worldwide media attention—but the forecasts haven't been without detractors. For some, the conclusion that polar bears are on the fast track to extinction is on such climate change research is a sound science. "Polar bears have become the poster species for doomsday prophets," warned Taylor, Naravat's recently retired manager of wildlife research, in a 13-page report submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2006. Taylor believes some factors may be contained in the U.S. Geological Survey reports were biased. "It's not the role of the scientist to say a conflictive policy," says Taylor, on the phone from his home in Igloolik, Nunavut. "I found

some of the papers neutral and objective. Others, I thought, were representative." While climate change should be taken seriously, he argues these simply aren't enough data to justify a listing at this time.

Leaving the bears too controversial because, in many experts' minds, the polar bear simply doesn't seem to be threatened. "At this time, the bears are as numerous as they've always been across their range," says Matt Cronin, a professor of animal genetics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This is a useful for a species considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. One U.S. study, for example, showed that reintroduced to "winter" and summer population sizes of 1,000–1,500 per city (the estimated 25,000 bears on the planet). "Traditionally, we've probably only

anything but reliable. "I think it's wholly inappropriate to consider something endangered based on predictions," Cronin says.

Others argue that the forecasting methodology being used is suspect as well. J. Scott Armstrong, a University of Pennsylvania marketing professor who has worked extensively with forecasting methods. He co-authored a highly critical audit of the U.S. Geological Survey reports, released in November. "These people might be experts on polar bears, but they seem to know absolutely nothing about how to forecast," Armstrong says.

While making an expert likely to have a negative impact on most bear habitats, it's possible that warmer temperatures might open new areas for polar bears, says Mikko Ilmavirta, a senior research scholar with the

Canada's home to 1/3 of the world's 12 polar bear populations—about 15,000 of the estimated 25,000 polar bears worldwide. Of these 12 populations, none (Derocher) are thought to be declining. He says the weight loss, increased drownings and emaciation "It's going to be far better than I ever imagined." Derocher says: "My level of concern with the polar bear situation is growing every day."

Much of Derocher's research takes place in the town of Tuktoyaktuk. Unlike Griseb, he believes the region's bears—known as the Beaufort Beaufort Sea population, which number about 1,500—are probably declining. Derocher's work suggests that many Beaufort Sea polar bears are actually migrating away from their habitat. "We don't normally see bears make these long distance movements," he says. "Some have usually crossed over into Russian territory."

At least one other Canadian population thought to be stable might soon start declining. Margen Obbard, an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources research scientist who works with polar bears on the northern Hudson Bay region. While the number of bears there (around 1,000) has been constant for the past 30 years, Obbard believes that's about to change. His work shows that over the past few decades, the bears' average body weight has decreased by up to 20 per cent—and that sex bears are less likely to birth healthy cubs. "To me, this suggests the population is likely at a tipping point," Obbard contends.

It's no given as the survey, studying and counting polar bears is far from an easy science. Up until the mid 1960s, it was done by hand. "It was then that we developed the statistical and tagging techniques" needed to count bears, Derocher explains. In the mid- and late 1960s, the Arctic, including bears is extremely difficult and expensive work. Researchers like Derocher or Pascoe transport bears from a helicopter, then mark them with a radio collar, ear tag, or lip tag. Pascoe says she spends about \$150,000 a year just storing fuel for her research helicopter. "My job is more about catching fuel than polar bear biology," she jokes.

Given these complexities, few Canadian populations have the long-term data once say to chart precise changes in their numbers. For example, a 2007 field study done in Nunavut's Davis Strait seemed to bring good news—the number of polar bears there hit 2,250, researchers said, up from about 820 in the 1970s. But variances in research methods—including the area covered, one of many and methods used—made accuracy impossible. "It seems like the population has increased," says Pascoe. "But it's difficult to say how much."



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



ALASKA: villagers return from hunting, drying pelts. (bottom) (Emmett) Adams, biologist, researcher and hunter, in Tuktoyaktuk

low-angle, head-on bears in the wild due to climate change," says Lily Pascoe, a polar bear biologist in Nunavut.

"We're close to 'observed' the bears may be at risk of becoming "endangered" within the foreseeable future—within, in the case of polar bears, has been set at 45 years. And since it's climate change that's believed to be the greatest threat to the bears' habitat, the Fish and Wildlife Service has to rely on future climate modeling to make its final recommendation. This is about what might happen, as much as it is about what's happening. "The fact that things may be okay in some populations right at the moment is a little beside the point," says Ian Stirling, one of Canada's top polar bear biologists, who has tracked declines in the western Hudson Bay population. "They're trying to look at, if we're on the trajectory we're on, where might we be in 45 years?" Cronin says these forecasts are



Canadian Conservation Institute in Edmonton. Right now, parts of Canada's high Arctic—the archipelago of islands in northern Nunavut—is looked in their, your mind is "It's not good habitat for polar bears, because it's not good habitat for seals," Froese says. "It's like reinforced concrete." As that ice begins to melt, and eventually disappears in the summertime, polar bears might relocate farther north, he argues. Armstrong of the USGS agrees that Canada's high Arctic could provide a refuge for the species. "We know that polar bears will persist in the Canadian archipelago until the end of the century."

institute. In the past 25 years, "accepted scientific authorities predicted the imminent extinctions of 15 million species, or 10 to 15 per cent of all species on earth," he noted in an April 2007 letter to the PWS in which he criticized the listing. "My points do not negate that these biologists were not necessarily wrong, but to observe that the overwhelming majority failed to subject their alarmist pronouncements to rigorous scientific scrutiny."

In the North, the biggest worry of the public is the bear's threatened status: even moderate impact will be that more bears are killed, not less. Each year, quotas are set to determine how many bears can be harvested. That number is allocated for subsistence hunting and half to sport hunting. In the southern Beaufort region, for instance, those are about 80 tags (40 in Alaska and 40 on the

Northwest Territories). "Even in fisheries, you start to see political statements and negotiations kicking in. We don't see that by this issue, which is unfortunate," says Mary Simon, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, a national Inuit organization. Currently, even federal government funding for polar bear research is limited, says Derocler. At present, the U.S. government provides "more than seven times" the funding for its Beaufort Sea project than any Canadian government source, says Derocler. As for addressing climate change, "I would have thought Canada would be a leader," he says. "We're very much behind."

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has concluded three times—in 1995, 1999, and 2001—that the polar bear should be listed as

populations in the foreseeable future. Greenhouse gas emissions will inevitably continue to rise in coming years. Of bad, the Ontario scientist who issued polar bears in the south was Hudson Bay region, admits he wonders how well the listing would protect the species. "But it might be good as a whole," he says. "Because maybe it will wake society up to the dangers of climate change."

And that may be the crux of it. As much as the polar bear war is about saving a species, it's also about climate change and a crisis. The polar bear just happens to be the most concrete it—not to mention big and handsome—model around. The perfect tool in the fight against global warming. Although Derocler, the World Conservation Union's polar bear biologist, dismisses a "threatened" listing, he agrees it will be damaging to Inuit



MANUPUR NATIONAL PARK: Canada is home to 13 of the world's 19 polar bear populations.

Communities. Sport hunters aren't always successful. They only get the bear they're after about 50 per cent of the time, says Lisa Ben. Around Tuk, he says, "You have to be sure that you had to be alive." In the Northwest Territories, if they don't kill a bear, the tag is not transferable. As a result, the sport hunting quotas are rarely if ever filled. If the sport hunt is banned, the hunting tags all go back to subsistence hunting, where the success rate is 100 per cent.

One of the big questions marks in this battle over the polar bear is where the government of Canada stands. In numerous Canada did not respond to repeated requests from Macdonald for an interview, answering questions only by email. "The well-being of polar bear populations in Alaska and Canada's Arctic is important to Canada," it says. For now, Canada seems to be taking a wait and see approach on what it recognizes to be a sensitive subject. Callie Condon for the Inuit, who argue that if this were any other kind of trade battle, things

would be different. "Even in fisheries, you start to see political statements and negotiations kicking in. We don't see that by this issue, which is unfortunate," says Mary Simon, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, a national Inuit organization. Currently, even federal government funding for polar bear research is limited, says Derocler. At present, the U.S. government provides "more than seven times" the funding for its Beaufort Sea project than any Canadian government source, says Derocler. As for addressing climate change, "I would have thought Canada would be a leader," he says. "We're very much behind."

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UNLIKELY CANDIDATE: CARBON DIOXIDE FOR FUEL
Carbon dioxide, the scourge of global warming, may be a fuel of the future. By using sunlight, scientists at New Mexico's Sandia National Laboratories believe they can split carbon dioxide and make hydrocarbon fuels. Called "Sunlight to Liquid," the process uses heat from the sun to split CO₂ into carbon monoxide and oxygen. Then, using carbon monoxide as a building block, scientists can synthesize methanol and even gasoline.

JOHN F. HARRIS FOR SCIENCE

The High Road.

There is a right way to do everything. Doing the right thing doesn't have anything to do with political correctness, popular trends, party affiliations, schools of thought, etc. It's not about numbers. It is simply this: you have a deep understanding of what should be done and, no matter what, you are honest and relentless in doing it.

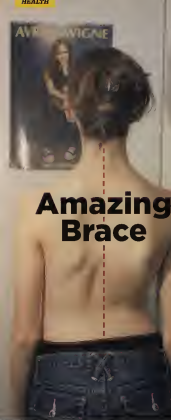
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Amazing Brace

Why aren't Canadian parents told about a Montreal invention used around the world to treat scoliosis?
BY SHARON DUNN

"WELCOME TO A LIFETIME OF PAIN!" was the dramatic greeting I got six years ago when I typed just one word into my search engine: *lost spring*. As I sat on a hotel room after a doctor my 12-year-old son Jay could hardly sit through because of pain, I realized just how accurate those words had been.

At 11, seated innocently enough in 2004 when Jay, then 16, complained of a sore back. His back looked fine to me, but I took him to the pediatrician just to be sure. "Your son has scoliosis, and now it's too late," the doctor told me, going on to explain that scoliosis, a sideways curvature of the spine, if caught while a child is still growing, can be treated with a brace to reduce the curve, or a surgically implanted rod to straighten the spine. We were referred to the Hospital For Sick Children in Toronto, where Jay was diagnosed with adolescent idiopathic (of no known cause) scoliosis, or AIS, the most common type of curvature of the spine. "If you ask me three times, I'll do surgery," the doctor then told my son.

Confused, I asked him what he meant. "I wasn't talking to you," the surgeon scoffed. Intimidated, not a common trait of mine, I backed down. Even though my son was still a minor, I apparently had no say in the matter. When we left the hospital, my son staggered and limped. "Well, I guess I have fusion," the surgeon had succored in making spinal fusion sound like a trip to the park.

I soon found out that nothing could be farther from the truth. Spinal fusion, introduced in 1933, is still one of the most dangerous surgeries performed today. Complications are surprisingly common and can include fusion failure, scoliosis, numbness, and, most worryingly, paralysis—even, as with my major surgery, death. "Successful" surgeries have their own issues, mainly chronic pain, and eventually more operations. Medical professionals may call it the gold standard in scoliosis surgery, but except in cases where it's absolutely necessary (serious spinal curves can lead to heart and lung problems), I couldn't find anything gladder about spinal fusion.

I was relieved when surgery wasn't immediately needed for Jay after all. Following the visit to Sick Kids, we received a letter from the pediatric surgeon we had seen. "No treatment is warranted in this case," it said, though "lower posterior fusion may be necessary in

the future due to pain or progression of curvature." How could there be no treatment warranted, I wondered. What we supposed to do nothing until surgery was needed?

I was writing for the *National Post* then and had managed to snag an interview with actress Jodie Foster, in town for the Toronto International Film Festival. Since time with her was limited, I ran to the chair. "I'd just said you hate scoliosis. My son has too," I blurted out. Assistant Bookings quickly replied, "Don't ever let him get the surgery." She went on to explain she'd had spinal fusion and had been in pain ever since. The few minutes we spent together, she talked incessantly about her scoliosis, while her handlers fiddled. The discussion wasn't exactly what day I'd envisioned. As she was being dragged away, her parting words were, "Remember, no surgery."

Increasingly concerned, I sought out Dr. Walter Eubank, a highly respected Canadian scoliosis surgeon who had relocated years earlier to practice in Dallas, Texas (he has since died). Through a mutual friend, he agreed to see Jay while he was visiting in Toronto. After his examination, the expert asked Foster's advice: "Don't ever let anyone do surgery on your son." He said that since Jay's curves were under 20 degrees, and more importantly, since he was a male (curves are more likely to increase in females), he was at low risk for progression. "He's lost of the lucky ones," I was told.

But Jay didn't feel lucky. Although some scoliosis suffers have no pain, his back pain was progressing the severity. Forbidders would often now appear on his bedside table when he was home from swimming. "My back is killing me, Ma," he would yell out, but it would be almost three years before he would admit that the pain was constant—and almost unbearable. He had been trying to keep it from me so I wouldn't worry. "This is seriously affecting my quality of life," he finally confessed. His doctor's solution had been to prescribe ever more powerful pain medications, and actions that in spite of the devastating side effects weren't solving the pain issues. In the prime of his life, my son was almost disabled from back pain. I was devastated.

I frantically searched for a solution, only to discover that the conventional treatment options in Canada are confusing, antiquated and inconsistent, even though AIS affects up to three per cent of the adolescent population, with one per cent going on to need treatment. It is one of the leading orthopaedic problems in children and teens (even in families: Miki Camus and her 23 daughters are virtually ignored within country, except for a "wait and watch" policy. Beyond that, treatment options get downright scary. The traditional braces that



CHARLESTON BRACE



MILWAUKEE BRACE



SPIECOR BRACE

are prescribed look like something from an ancient torture chamber: The T830 (Boston style brace) and the Charleston (nighttime) brace consist of a hard shell that extends from under the armpits to the hips. The Milwaukee brace, used since the 1940s, is even more restrictive (and just out from rock 'n' roll). These were the kinds my son was too late for? It's hardly surprising that many teens refuse to wear braces ungraciously, grumping, one sage on 10 tell me, "It's so getting away from being kids in Canada sleep that, and going straight from 'sueit and woady' to surgery." The more I found out about scoliosis, the more frightened I became.

Create forums at the National Scoliosis Foundation's website (NSF.ca), parents of teens, non-professionals out of Boston's research foundation group in Canada) only added to my angst—heart-wrenching stories written by young people struggling to cope with the disabling pain of scoliosis. One teen, describing a summer stay of moral jet from her prescribed medical drugs, and desperately seeking an alternative, begged for help, a young stress manager described pain so excruciating he was forced to paradoxically collapse on the backside of his wheelchair to try to get relief. He found he would be blind—orthopedic to quit. There were complaints about doctors who would treat patients cruelly, doctors who said scoliosis didn't exist pain. We'd heard that one before. Some said, some regarded scoliosis sufferers as faking work of overcompensation to the damaged torso, even as they themselves talked about years of constant, daily pain, operations, re-operations, and even total disability. Good Lord, maybe my son really was headed for a lifetime of pain.

His birthday, I bought a glass to California where Jay was then living so I could try to help. An appointment with another top scoliosis surgeon, this one in L.A., turned up nothing new. Jay didn't need surgery yet, we were told, and he shouldn't be having so much pain. Here we go again, I thought as I caught Jay's frustrated gaze. I was overwhelmed by the hopelessness of his situation.

In my hotel room that night, after the doctor Jay could hardly sit through because of the pain, I began surfing "chronic pain management." I couldn't believe it had come to this, but there seemed to be no other solution. A pain clinic in Los Angeles popped up, too long a drive to a clinic for children—and adults. A brace for adults? I was surprised to learn that the brace had been invented and marketed (though not in Montreal). It had never heard of it? The next morning I called Scotty James and got through to one of the inventors, Dr. Charles Hildebrand, a research scientist, orthopaedic surgeon and former head of surgery at the University of Montreal.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GAIL SHERITT; PHOTOGRAPH BY GAIL SHERITT; PHOTOGRAPH BY GAIL SHERITT

PHOTOGRAPH BY GAIL SHERITT; PHOTOGRAPH BY GAIL SHERITT; PHOTOGRAPH BY GAIL SHERITT

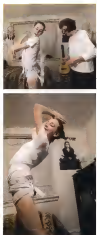
"Will your brace help my son?" I asked desperately, after a long time in Jay's room. "Yes, it will," he replied confidently. The brace, called SpineCor, is an elaborate system of elastic bands, applied with the use of software designed for each individual curve, that had been created for 30- to 36-year-old children with AIS and was now being used on adults to relieve back pain. Since Jay was living in California, David recommended Dr. David Goren, one of several California orthopedic surgeons who had been trained in fitting the brace by the SpineCor doctor's team. "It's accurate, and it won't overcharge you," Edward promised. I was hopeful, but Jay, who had lost everything from scoliosis surgery to physiotherapy. This message, warning them, yes, it was, and even Dr. Goren's message (he gave it to him as Christmas), was skeptical. After all, I had covered the brace on the Internet. "I'll end up looking like Quasimodo..." he threatened. But despite my fears, I decided to try it. And on April 10th Day, 2007, we flew with the brace to the tune of US\$1,500. On April 3, the Bell flew back to Toronto with her fingers crossed.

Within a couple of days, a debilitating leg reported that its daily back pain was raising me—dramatically. And after a couple of weeks, the chronic pain that he had suffered for years was miraculously gone. The brace was extending his muscles, and in doing so, correcting his posture. The problem was caused by the asymmetry of his spine. My son was finally pain-free for the first time in 13 years. I was elated, but confused. Why hadn't I known about this great Canadian invention that had helped my son so much? I went to Sainte-Jasine in Montreal to find out.

"Maybe the reason you've never heard of the brace [since Quebec since 1990] is because they don't want to use it on the rest of Canada," Dr. Rivard said meekly. The SpineCor brace is used in 13 countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Australia, Spain, Switzerland, the U.S., but not in "English" Canada. Ten thousand children have been treated with the brace, at a distributed cost of US\$1.5 a worldwide "Nobel in Canada award," as he commented Rivard said.

A \$12 million grant from the Quebec government in 1992 enabled Rivard to get the brace off the ground, and to begin research on the development of new instrumentation to be used in the place of braces. The intellectual property rights for the brace are owned by Sainte-Justine's.

Rivard credits his colleague, Dr. Christine Colliard for coming up with the idea for the brace that, he says, "is keeping kids out of surgery." Colliard, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon who studied the interconnections of the spine for 10 years spent another four years



'DON'T EVER let your son get the surgery,' Isabella Rossellini said



EMER TREMBLAY, 10, in the SpineCor brace, and cousin 14, without the brace

developing SpineCor, said, "Unlike traditional braces, there is no elastic strip, and no side effects." Rivard added that the "dynamic" SpineCor "uses the muscles. It's like being in physiotherapy 24/7."

The brace has been used on adults for only about two years, the goal being pain relief, not straightening the spine in nature. "No one thought it would help adults," said Colliard. Rivard added that the brace doesn't work for everyone. He continues to use the Milwaukee brace on children when the SpineCor won't hold a large curve, and says that when a growing child goes beyond a 50-degree scoliosis curve, surgery becomes almost unavoidable. "Every time I lose a child, I feel bad," the Montreal doctor told me as he lay on his back.

"It's been so long and so difficult," Colliard confided, as he walked toward him with us. "Tell people I just want to help kids," Rivard said. "I know it's a complicated issue, but it works. Why aren't the others using it?" Back in "English" Canada, I contacted Dr. Ben Adams, head of the orthopedic division, and AIS specialist, at the Hospital for Sick Children, to find out why the hospital doesn't use the Quebec brace. "The reason SpineCor isn't used here is not because it is good or bad," Adams told me. "It's a financial issue. OHIP [Ontario's health insurance plan] doesn't pay for it." Hard braces are covered "at least partially," he said. An orthopedically not being told about this brace because of the cost? Adams added, "Part of the problem is that the brace is too new to know for certain long-term results."

But the Canadian brace is not "too new" for two of the most prestigious children's or orthopedic hospitals in the U.S. The SpineCor is used at the renowned Shriners Hospital for Children in Erie, Penn., and at the late-on John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Paul Spokes at Johns Hopkins believes that the SpineCor brace "works for smaller curves, in patients who are very difficult about wear." Although Spokes also said that some patients do not respond to any kind of bracing, he added, "I have had some remarkable success in my life, preventing surgery in patients who only we have needed it." Dr. James Sanders is the former chief of staff at Shriners and a new professor and chief of pediatric orthopedics at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. "While I don't like the idea of the SpineCor brace," he said, "it really goes beyond to know if it is one more than just a non-surgical therapy." Both Sanders and Adams refer to studies now under way to determine if any of the braces currently in use really work.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARIO TREMBLAY

Some experts believe the best chance of avoiding surgery in diagnosing curves early is the U.S., without insurance and in many states. Girls are generally screened in the fifth and eighth grade, and boys in the eighth or ninth grade. The method used is the Adams forward bending test: the child bends over a 90-degree angle while the examiner, standing behind, compares both sides of the back, looking for asymmetry, like a protruding shoulder blade. When the child stands up straight, the examiner checks for unequal shoulders, or an uneven waist. If a problem is found, the child is referred to a doctor. Clinics have no such screenings in public schools.

Many doctors think school screening is a waste of time, since they don't believe there is an effective conservative treatment for scoliosis. Rivard disagrees. "I believe finding curves earlier, while they're smaller and amenable, will keep our children out of surgery," according to Rivard, lower fusion can be done in surgery due to their conservative approach to scoliosis. "In Europe, the first line of defense for scoliosis is rehabilitative therapy. In Canada, the first referral is to a surgeon," he says.

At St. John's Hospital, Dr. Adams told me that scoliosis patients with curves too small for traditional treatment (under 25 to 30 degrees) are now routinely referred to the hospital's on-call physiotherapist—but not for any active treatment. "Mainly to train and teach and keep an eye on things," he said. Dr. O'Brien, president of the National Scoliosis Foundation, is appalled at that. "I've never understood the logic of 'wait and watch,'" he told me indignantly. Also a supporter of school screening, O'Brien, who had his first scoliosis surgery at the age of 16, and four subsequent surgeries, said, "The only operation I regret was the first—it created all the problems that make the following surgeries necessary." O'Brien has three children with scoliosis and has managed to keep them all scoliosis-free. One wears the SpineCor. Asked about the Quebec brace, he said, "I don't know what I was supposed to do [hold the curve and prevent surgery]."

SpineCor also did what it was supposed to do for Valerie Gaudet, a second-year journal arts student at Université de Montréal who was fitted with the brace at the age of 13 due to a painful 25-degree curve. She wore it for a recommended 11 hours a day for 18 months, and said, "I didn't mind at all. I even had a boyfriend." "I began being fitted with the SpineCor," Gaudet had been told the night after a mild surgery. "And that I must wear the brace," she said. "I felt real good." Long out of the brace, her curve is stable at only 12 degrees (anything under 10 degrees is considered not even considered scoliosis). "I am so thankful that I met Dr. Rivard," she said.



JAY REPORTED that the pain he had suffered for years was virtually gone



DOCTORS Colliard and Rivard, 13-year-old Isabelle May of Monctonville (top)

In the course of my research for this story, I made several phone calls and visits to the busy Sainte-Justine's campus and clinic, mostly to speak with parents and patients, some in French, some in English. Those I spoke with were grateful and had nothing but praise for the Quebec doctors. All were joyful smiles. I also met 13-year-old Emme Tremblay from Ottawa, who might not be a fan of her brace. Her worried parents, Michael and Ruth, told me that although their daughter's curves were diagnosed three years ago, when they measured under 20 degrees, nothing was to be done if advanced enough for a combination of hard brace, a loose brace, like most youngsters, found not comfortable to wear. With her curves now measuring more than 30 degrees, Ruth, who recently discovered SpineCor on the Internet, said, "We're grasping the game really late, so I'm not sure the brace is going

to work. I believe I have given only a 15 per cent chance of success because of the large size of her curves." The Ottawa surgeon who recommended fusion for Emme downplayed the seriousness of the operation: "An upset that told me, 'I gave me the impression that it was not bad at all.' Ruth begged me not to reveal the doctor's name, 'because we might need to go back to him for the surgery.' The Tremblays are looking for answers. "Why wasn't we told about SpineCor by our doctor?" Ruth wants to know.

Although there is increasing evidence that the SpineCor brace works for some people, Canadian doctors outside of Quebec continue to ignore it. Any issue Canadian children and young adults with curves that could have been corrected if the Quebec brace had been prescribed? Rivard says that 70 per cent of his SpineCor patients are either stabilized or improved after SpineCor treatment, with 23 per cent going on to need surgery. Without the brace, he believes that at least 50 per cent would need fusion.

Nine months after being fitted with SpineCor, Jay is still pain-free, and calls the brace "bloody brilliant." He refers to the inventors as "those geniuses from Quebec." I'm so grateful, and was so excited about Jay's pain relief, that I left phone messages for the Tremblays. A surgeon we had seen, offering to provide details about the brace so that we could help other patients. Neither doctor ever called me back. I asked Rivard what would have happened to Jay if he hadn't discovered SpineCor. "He would have wanted surgery," Rivard said, shaking his head. "The pain from scoliosis can be that bad."

Online, a 15-year-old California teen adds, "I believe the brace has helped with SpineCor." Also fitted with the brace by Dr. Goren, he says, "This is the first time I've been able to sit comfortably for years." A 16-year-old woman who couldn't stand and who was in constant pain until she was fitted with SpineCor says she is now pain-free. Her posture perfect. When asked what the future holds for her, she says, "I feel so well, though the first year associated with this recent disorder was so covered just last year by U.S. researchers, so maybe one day there will be a cure."

Until then, controversy surrounding the treatment of scoliosis will continue to rage. But meanwhile, although not even in the mid-1990s, Rivard's and Colliard's work continues to gain respect worldwide, with some patients travelling to Montreal from as far away as San Francisco and over for treatment. Both Tremblay of Ottawa is successful. "Why wasn't we given the chance by our doctor?" she asks, adding wistfully, "And we were only a two-hour drive away." ■



SCOLLER decided she had to go, to up on the people who turned up. "For me, this was a job, unlike theirs, I'd be getting paid!"

THE ANTI-ECKLER BLOGGERS HOST A 'PARTY'

The guests seem to have little in common—except for hating me

BY REBECCA ECKLER • There's a saying: "Never wrestle with pigs. You'll both get dirty and only the pig will enjoy it." I think of this all the time when I write about my ex-boyfriend, who I call a vodka cranberry while sipping on a gin-and-tonic. In my honour—that took place one cold evening last week at a Toronto bar.

The guests at the "party" in my house have only a few things in common as far as I can tell. They spend too much time on their computers. They have way too much time on their hands. They seem to experience joy only when trying to bring someone else down. And they hate me.

For months and months, they have harassed me on Facebook, e-mail, MySpace, and even in person. They have harassed me in person at every restaurant, every story, every blog entry I

have ever written. They have debated about how many siblings I have, obsessed about the state of my relationship, my career, where I go grocery shopping, my friends, and have even discussed when my child goes to school. Sometimes they have berated me on cyberballing; they even knew when I left my daughter's school concert early. Along with trying to monitor what I write like every second of my life, they have posted lies (for example, that I have ghost written). Paradoxically, they became convinced that every time someone posted something kind about me, it was me writing about myself (not true).

These "Coconuts," as I've started calling them, do all this obsessing, and carry on their vicious conversations, behind their computers on a Facebook blog or MySpace blog, where they hide by posting false names or by creating anonymous accounts. As far as I can tell, only one Coconut wrote her real name, possibly,

from what I can surmise, in an effort to protect her wallet card.

The Coconuts recently decided that hating me was enough of a reason for them to all meet in person. Apparently, in the alternative universe that is cyberland, hating someone is a perfectly sane reason to meet with you. "Damn! I want to join the fun but I probably won't be able to make it until Feb," one Coconut commented to the Coconuts who was organizing the anti-Eckler party.

Not everyone was as gung-ho. A longtime blogger seemed to realize that maybe the group's creepy and cowardly anonymity as a whole should remain anonymous. "I can't even tell you how tempting this idea of a meet-up is," the blogger wrote. "But the thought of going somewhere to meet a bunch of folks who won't even sign to their actual blogger identity [is] [scary] [indeed] just seems insane!"

When I read about the party, I knew I had

to go and spy on who was there. I'm curious by nature, and besides I'd be writing a story. For me, this was a job. Unlike the us, I'd be getting paid. Also, I have been shocked by the news of how cyberbullying and cyber-harassment have affected other people.

Tina Megan Mace, the 19-year-old girl who killed herself after a teenage boy flirted with her on MySpace in 2006. The boy ended their friendship, telling her that the world would be better off without her. After Megan's suicide, it was revealed that there never was a boy. It was a vicious prank a mother in the girl's Missouri neighborhood had led her to believe. Megan's name has been much in my head ever since. I read about her story.

I have been there, kicking someone after reading their comments about me. "Doesn't anybody else see that all that morning in the rain, she looks 40 years old, and not a good 40 either, but a really, laggard 40." Another time one user wrote, "Even when she smiles, the smile doesn't reach her eyes."

I'm 34, wise enough to know that people, especially strangers, who post anonymously will take offense at those tracing them down, aren't worth me destroying my life over. They're barely worth a minute of my time. It's too easy to be cruel from the safety of your laptop. And just those anonymous bloggers sometimes do get to me, especially when they post blatantly ridiculous lies, or when they think I owe them answers to questions only good life lies and my family have a right to ask, or when they criticize how I look. Sometimes the wild inaccuracies are hilarious. Sometimes they are just harmful.

Cyberbullying got to my son Patrick Halligan, another teenager who was cyberbullied relentlessly until the point became so unbearable that he took his own life. According to a 2007 report, "Cyberbullying: One Kid's New Reality," which drew from nearly 1,000 responses to a survey conducted by Kids Help Phone, cyberbullying is all too common among Canadian teens. More than 70 per cent admitted they have been bullied online, while 40 per cent said they have bullied someone online.

In the real world, I was convinced those Coconuts would never have the courage to say to my face what they have written about me online. "I've been called a bitch, a bitch, a monster, a fake name, but never once to my face," writes Jessica Green in a recent issue of Glamour, about her time blogging for *Rolling Stone* and a gossip website. "In fact, I doubt I've even told the people reading my e-mails that they would offend—let alone even asked them what they would think if she knew who I looked like, the reality pulled out a photo of me from a magazine. It is still not clear to me whether or not I have actually met her, as she once wrote she had only been in the 'same room' as me. [Both in cyberland is apparently not the same as in the real life.]"

Would these Coconuts, I wondered, dare show up? Were they even adults? And if they

were, were they as vicious and threatening as people who they seemed to fear? I knew that last year a tech blogger named Kirby Stremos called all her speaking engagements after she received threatening comments on her site. One anonymous poster wrote, "I hope someone kills your throat." A list ensued, I suggested two threats to come along with me, one who would say with me, and one who would join the "party" as a mole. One of the Coconuts had written that she would be wearing a blue dress to the party, and that if anyone would recognize her, I thought it was a joke until my confidence

THEY'RE OBSESSED: THEY EVEN KNEW WHEN I LEFT MY DAUGHTER'S CONCERT EARLY



JOHN HALLIGAN's son Ryan killed himself

called me on my phone—then it was over. I told me my other friend at that point to tell me she had killed the Coconuts, wearing a blue dress, and was going to sit with her.

I would find out later that this Coconut hated me because, apparently, I've met her in parties where I didn't remember who she was. (And these Coconuts say I'm stuck in high school. I would find out that the Coconut is 44 [39 years old, has two children and lives in Michigan. When my confidence asked her if she knew who I looked like, the reality pulled out a photo of me from a magazine. It is still not clear to me whether or not I have actually met her, as she once wrote she had only been in the "same room" as me. [Both in cyberland is apparently not the same as in the real life.]

Will after the call of those gathering time.

I walked in the front door of the party venue, and sat by the bar to observe. Only one other Coconut showed up—thats a party that had been discussed for weeks. This Coconut admitted to my confidence that she had posted names about me under several false names. (It suddenly made sense to me why there was so much discussion about this party and then only two people showed up.) She admitted she'd never met me. She had driven 45 minutes to get to the bar, from a town outside Toronto, leaving behind two small children. (And this from the poster who once wrote, "Ugh! I actually give a damn about my kids." I can tell you this much: I would never have my child to drive 45 minutes to meet a perfect stranger, all to bring about another perfect stranger.)

"They were really nice," my confidence told me later. "If I hadn't been there I have no idea how they would have talked to each other." She also told me that for 60 minutes they talked about nothing but me. "But we were using words like 'solving,'" I cried. "You don't have to tell me," she said. "I heard the f---er."

My confidence got the two Coconuts' names, and their email addresses, as I watched from my bar stool. The two looked quite harmless in person. In fact, they were a lovely surprise.

"They blame you for everything," my confidence told me. "They blame you for their bad marriages, the fact that neither of them is successful, that they'll never be successful, that they don't have a lot of money." They probably blame you for the bad weather?

The anti-Eckler gathering had proved to be a success, which means of course that I was on my phone—then it was over. I told me my other friend at that point to tell me she had killed the Coconuts, wearing a blue dress, and was going to sit with her.

For example, the following day one of them wrote, "I loved naming you all together," as if one other person amounts to "all of you." As I've said, and this proves it, truth is the normal world is weird. The night also proved that real bloggers have too few friends and too much time. (Most of us in the real world don't have time to meet up with our real friends, let alone find the time to blog.) And might, let alone meet strangers as far away from home.)

"Honestly," my confidence told me later, "I think they really wanted to meet you." It was explained that they had been hoping I'd go to the party. "They wanted you to come and sit with them." But what, in the (real) world, would I possibly have to say to people like them? ■



surprisingly opulent corner of Canada.

It will only get crazier. By March 2010, almost everyone on the planet will have seen B.C.'s new mountain resort. The ski hill launched nearly 40 years ago with a single chairlift, two T-bars and a gondola housed in a wooden barn, dreamed up by five Vancouver businessmen who had the maverick twice-vintage idea that this undeveloped, backwoods mountain with no real infrastructure or paved roads could make an Olympic host. The first bid, for the '60 Winter Games, flopped, but Whistler has boomed and for months now, its quarter-billion-dollar pre-Olympic makeover has barely stood out, so common to the sight of cranes, cranes

and massive construction projects here.

The 2010 Winter Games will be a huge, unbridled commercial for Whistler, dubbed by *Rolling Stone* "North America's biggest ski resort with the lowest profile." Already, among a certain crowd, Whistler Blackcomb is the king of the hills—the new Aspen, boy, younger, bigger, busier. It's a place unlike any other in Canada, drawing (even on international) yet not typically seen in this country. This is where Seal proposed to Heidi Klum, dropping to one knee at 14,000 feet atop a glacier. Nicole Kidman dined with her parents at the Ferncroft Chalet in Whistler, where Oprah Winfrey once stayed—and reportedly never left her room. Sometimes resident Bill Gates

SKI BUNTING comes from the world over to hit the slopes and live it up at spots like Buffalo Bills. "What's your priority at 27? A snowboard and enough money to party every night."



"IT'S LIKE NEW ORLEANS DURING MARDI GRAS," ONE STAFFER SAYS, "BUT COMPLETELY"

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

For celebs and the über-rich, Whistler is the best ski resort anywhere. For the lifties and bar staff, it's the most surreal corner on earth. And soon it's going to get a whole lot weirder.

BY NANCY MACDONALD PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICK COLLINS

"CAN YOU GET CLAMS FROM ISSUING A GIB?" Marco asks. He is standing on the dance floor at Buffalo Bills, a sprawling, upstairs, western-themed Whistler nightclub. It is only Wednesday, but this is locals' night, often bills' mission, and we're mobbed by a crush of tribe, beautiful young people. Even in this crowd, Marco Rigg stands out, with his blue eyes, red curls, soccer-cas and razor

sharp profile. A 22-year-old with an Aussie drawl, he grew up in Melbourne, where a guy his age can find almost anything but snow. Since moving to B.C. a few months ago with three boyfriend friends in pursuit of the mountain life, he's learned to Double Grab and get backside air. And he's learned any job almost makes him a local here. Still, some details of his new life are peculiar. "The

other night I was with a girl," he explains. "We just kissed. Nothing more. The next night it slept in David's bed. And David woke up totally cozy. So he's shared everything."

Marco and his friends, like most of the seasonal staff around here, descended on the Whistler Chamber of Commerce job fair, held in October. Each year, 1,100 such employes are hired for the winter by the resort, to join the 8,500 or so permanent staff who wash Whistler's dishes, make its beds and serve drinks to a visiting population that swells to 40,000 on busy weekends. A surprising number are ski-cherry bakers and skiers from Rigg's home country. They come, work a holiday-judge of jobs, and do it as every possible break

So having a job here has become something of an Aussie rite of passage—in much the way the train-mountain resort of Whistler Blackcomb sends recruits to Australia, as well as New Zealand and the U.K., every summer. This year, they also had from unlikely places upon like Israel, Chile and South Korea. If not for the Working Holiday Program—Canada's offer of a one-year working visa for youth under 30, recently extended to two years for Aussies only—the Western Canadian ski industry would collapse, says Michael J. Ballagay, vice-president of Big White, B.C.'s second resort. Marco and David may have crab legs. They may not. And they still don't have a place to live. But they've managed to carve out a livelihood, however precarious, in the most





THIS IS WHERE SEAL PROPOSED TO HEIDI KLUM—AT 14,000 FEET ATOP A GLACIER

has hosted après-ski parties at the Longhorn Saloon, at Whistler's base. This year, Laurie Sobieski visited, as did Michelle Rodriguez—before her incarceration in an L.A. County jail. On some winter days, the slow-to-fly highway, which runs from Vancouver to Whistler, is thick with jet black fumes topped by roof racks. Through them, including British royalty, headed by Klum, look here for the New World edge, raw, untamed mountain setting, and annual snowfall, which topped a record 45 feet last season. Global warming, which threatens fully two-thirds of the Alps' ski resorts, has been a boost here: Bare peaks/bookings uplaid 20 percent last season. "You can't trust the snow in Europe anymore," insists Canadiana's more daring, after a winter—the summer in 1,000 years—has, in some areas, left a rash of muddy runs and shaky peaks.

What draws everybody across a state? If you studied Le Mouf and Mont Tremblant on top of each other, Whistler would stand taller. If you closed half its runs and half its lifts, Whistler Blackcomb would still eclipse most resorts. There are more maps, more moguls, more gondolas here than anywhere else in North America. Whistler offers over 8,000 skiable acres, the continent's only vertical mile and a rare month season, North America's longest. At 11,000 feet snowboard peaks, three glaciers and, at 14,000, the country's prime lift cables. If you want to make it, you've got to go to Whistler, a 99-year-old logging post snowboarder assures me. "Everybody knows that." And so the hard-core youth of Australia converge with elite athletes, supermodels and action photographers drawn from all corners of the globe.

With new friends like these, the town has reaped up the work force. For \$15 a day above the \$440 room rate—the Four Seasons will outfit guests in the season's Pro or Spy



der ski clothes and top of the line Anoris ski. Every morning, your Salomon boots are handed to you by someone. At the end of your last run, you simply step out of your bindings and dump the equipment into the waiting basket of a minicab—who is standing alongside with his chocolate.

Living at the extreme of the snow season, however, is tricky, and bound to get trickier. The Bertensdens, Lefebvre, and Grosvenors and kids who was your ski and sharpen your snowboard edges have developed an

underground culture and economy with its own laws. Locals call it Whistler Darwinism. If you can't outwit a Whistler, the saying goes, you don't deserve to stay.

In my recent town tour with Boba to Kinos, there is an obvious divide between the workers and the wannabes—a point highlighted home on Whistler, the gritty D.C. styled snowboarder shop produced by MTV, the network that, with Rogers Communications, won the Canadian broadcast rights to the 2010 Winter Games. The class system in

LOCALS HAVE AN UNDERGROUND ECONOMY OF THEIR OWN, CALLED WHISTLER DARWINISM

Whistler further divides the real locals from the seasonal workers. The former walk the system, get the good apartments and meet for brunch at Funktion Junction, the bustling industrial area tucked far from tourist eyes. The greeters are in for a rougher ride. All they know are the seasons they've lived on-site but from Vancouver—the ground zero for key information. "By the time you get off the bus in Whistler," recounts Paige Harvey, 26, from Australia, "you are so fed. We heard that a bag of chips costs \$10, but all the good jobs go to Canadians, that there are no full-time jobs, or housing."

Some of this is true. Rental property in Canada's most expensive municipality is hard to come by, and subsidized staff housing is limited. Some landlords refuse to rent to season workers, especially young, male, single ones. One agency of faces outright to deal with anyone under 25—like in a place with one of the country's youngest populations. Half of all Whistler residents are between 20 and 34, and the median age is 21. Ernie Myrick, a young Aussie who started to move away last housing at the Chateau Whistler with his two young brothers, lost those Australian friends, all employed. "They're moving back because they can't find anywhere to live," he says. "Landlords think they're going to trash the place and join on the experts." Since arriving in B.C., Myrick and his friends have slept in a series of trailers, hostels and couches. At one point they'd moved to Pemberton, north of Whistler, where they were forced to juggle work schedules with sporadic bus service to the resort town.

Still, Marco says they have made it up the mountain five days a week since arriving in the fall. And that's the main thing. "What is your priority at 21?" asks Mike Varma, Whistler's vice manager of the hill-bugging



GLOBAL WARMING HAS TEMPERED DRIVING EUROPE'S DESIRE TO WHISTLER, SUMMER DAYS. (SEE SOURCE) Sky Highway is thick with black fumes, the famed Garibaldi Lift Company lift (above).

Garibaldi Lift Company—the number one resort lift in North America according to Skiing magazine, which, for 11 years running, has named Whistler Blackcomb the best resort on the continent. "It's earning a new snowboard and having enough money to party every night."

Reject the stereotype: most do have one's buy. Some live five or six hours of daily doing temp jobs. They prioritize simply different incomes. In a city, the point is to earn and save. In Whistler, the individual lives to ride. Whistler is like snow-curve land, says Verin, pointing to a local's table: he calls Laur's Corner, far from the bar's famed, rock fireplace. It's anchored by a head-bolting, sweat-soaked, where-behind-the-mountain who looks to be in his mid-60ies. At 36, Ross Whitehead's blurring through his hair after a day of lessons.

Given the cohort—young, single, there-

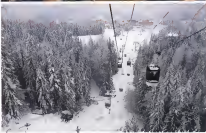
fully monomestic—Whistler's naturally hedonistic. "It's like New Orleans during Mardi Gras," says one posing woman, "but permeably." She's part of a quartet of Bay Area friends blacked-out in heels from Whistler's beloved squabblers in the Four Seasons for the upscale, no-snowboard Christmas party. "You do things you never do at home." (Obviously, they routinely date out condoms in staff residences, says her friend—a job perk that might be unique to Whistler.)

Still, there are challenges for those who make the place tick. The demographics is predominantly male. Local legend once put the ratio at seven boys to every girl. Whichever the true figure, the straight boys' ratio. What happens when one of you brings a girl home? Link two 18-year-old boys. Part of a house of 11 guys, they must the question with silence. "It hasn't happened yet," one finally remembers, immediately receiving a sharp punch to the

bury from the others. "This is a place where the wrong people find the land," says Melissa Pines, 34, an engineering graduate from the University of Western Ontario. "It's up to you—who you want to hook up with, who you want to bring home or if you don't want to bring anyone home. There is no one in the world like it."

Money is a potential problem. The A&S uses "6 C" stands for "brag cash." Most are earning \$8 per hour. This is hard to stretch in a town where single detached houses can push \$12 million and dinner at the Beehive Bistro, a foodie haunt near the North America's biggest champagne festival, can run \$100 a head. Extra bowl of French onion soup from the bar means over \$10—clearly unaffordable for anyone on minimum wage. But there's a secret to

WHISTLER was built with an Olympic dream 40 years ago. By March 2010, the entire planet will have seen the twin mountain resort.



SOCIALLY, IT'S A WOMAN'S WORLD: LEGEND PUTS THE RATIO AT SEVEN BOYS PER GIRL

drinking here. It's all about the best people, not usually, but occasionally.

The likelihood of the local community is a second economy—some call it the look-up economy—based on barter, trade and mere monetary exchange. Others have dubbed Whistler Bartertown, as in Mad Max. Utensils, goods brought home from the bakery are traded for a ski tune up, marijuana for fish food, and ski goggles a flower have become a

common currency. There are direct services for service exchanges, like a massage for a haircut, says Sheryl Sharkey, an 18-year-old Edmontonian who lives 15 hours north in Whistler and visits a food bank before catching on. "Now everything the grocery store where I work drops out—all the out-dated food—gets brought home," she says. Sharkey has two roommates who work at Whistler clubs. As compensation, she never pays

for coffee or drinks at their house.

Lesley Hunter, 22, a snowmobile guide and nighttime pizza deliverer for Domino's, spends up her cash by making meals with restaurant staff. "Every night I phone over to another restaurant—say, the Mangala Grill—and they want to trade stuff inside!" She says it happens every night. When Jason Sarazin, 21, a whitewater rafting guide who's lived in Whistler on and off for five years,

worked at the local Subway, she'd bring home 100 up to 150 bucks, worth a free Subway sandwich. She would trade them for admission to clubs, beer, or "real food." "Our mission is to get up the mountain," says Rory Ryley, 21, an English literature graduate from the University of British Columbia. "Money has no real place or meaning here."

The high end establishments, the high-end outdoor and resorts, have their own version of the barter economy. Whistler restaurant owners bribe local caterers to recommend their restaurants to guests. This greatly raises the caterer's and a guest will be invited to dine, but, one former restaurant owner requesting anonymity, says some even demand cash for each table booked. These underground transactions create a sense of both order and of interdependency, creating tension and benefits to veterans Whistlerites. But some argue that, among locals, they also create a sense of entitlement. At the end of the day, someone's pocket is being drained.

The high finance of the ski industry and Olympic public relations, however, matter little to the people who keep the mountains green going. The lifter, greeting you with a noisy "How ya gas?" must "bawling out loud" with a ski lift attendant, the attendant, being hands-on mouth, with their own careers and union rules, will continue to give the billion-dollar bill in cash, Gates or not. For that, as the day, it's all about cash, drugs and powder. Nothing more. ■



THAILAND: CHICK-BEARING FROG IS GOOD LUCK

Thailand's frogmen are glad to be in a nation where the Thai town of Roi Et, after the thimble on which turned out to be an amphibious frog about to devour a chick already stuffed in its mouth. Longest stored the amphibious frog, it ejected the chick and joined Thailand's family. Now, let's play the game as a residents' contest the frog by swallowing its eggs for lucky numbers. The Thai media have also photographed the frog riding a boy's motorcycle.

In any case, the Whistler is changing. They can't paint the town with Olympic rings until Beijing's Summer Games wrap up in August, but they're already knee-deep in Games fever. Years ago, Olympic organizers promised to have full services, including Vancouver's new hockey, speed skating and curling rinks ready by the end of 2004, giving Canadian athletes a full winter season on the ice—a major leg up in technical skills like the legs, where every one-hundredth of a second counts.

Whether best the deadline. March is two years before the torch reaches down, in 1050 million words of women are already back. Last month, the first cross-country ski competition was held in the freshly named Whistler Olympic Park in nearby Callaghan Valley. In February, the FIS World Cup will put the men's and women's downhill courses on Whistler Mountain to the test. Meanwhile, five more Olympic bobsledders Pierre Leducs has already taken a split Blackcomb Mountain's new sliding center for bobsled, luge and skeleton—one of just 15 tracks in the world.

The early-bird resort town actually needs the boost. Whistler isn't growing the way it once did. On a busy day, the mountain can handle 60,000 per hour. But business has flattened since the 1980 season, even in the most influential industry magazines, from *Life* and *Silver* magazines to *Snow Country*, continue to designate the resort among the world's very best. In 2004, for the first time in 30 years, visits fell below two million, that year a whopping 15 per cent of visitors stayed in local hotels. Whistler they wouldn't be rewarded because it's grown too eyes on. Since then, winter hotel room bookings have fallen by 20 per cent. The top strong Canadian dollar and new property rules for Americans entering Canada by car are expected to ring.

The high finance of the ski industry and Olympic public relations, however, matter little to the people who keep the mountains green going. The lifter, greeting you with a noisy "How ya gas?" must "bawling out loud" with a ski lift attendant, the attendant, being hands-on mouth, with their own careers and union rules, will continue to give the billion-dollar bill in cash, Gates or not. For that, as the day, it's all about cash, drugs and powder. Nothing more. ■

SLEEPER BOWL

For 1 minute of action, an NFL game inflicts 14 minutes of inaction

BY JAY YERGEN • Super Bowl time is just upon us, with all its attendant Roman numeral hype—this year's National Football League extravaganza is number XLII, or, for non-Latin accounts—and its accompanying deluge of inaction minutes. Over the course of the week we'll hear about the number of people who will watch the game on television (3.5 billion to 3.6 billion in the U.S. alone), the amount of money the game will generate for the economy of Phoenix, Ariz., where it's being played (\$1.8 billion to \$1.9 billion), the number of minutes of actual on-field action Super Bowl XLII will provide for the football fans. This may be because no one, football fan or not, would have it. Assume the Super Bowl will last the average NFL game, the ball will be in actual play on Sunday, Feb. 3 for approximately—wait for it—12 minutes.

But hold on, you may object, a football game is 60 minutes long, no? Well, no. The clock that counts down to 60 minutes starts at a not "stop-time" and not a blowout to the water and stoppage of action on the field. The average NFL game contains about 14 minutes of actual play, which adds an average of six seconds each. That's 720 seconds of play, or 12 minutes. Meanwhile, the average NFL game is total time to play the Super Bowl can last an hour longer! That means that a regular-season game consists of 12 minutes of action, and 14 minutes of inaction, largely comprised of what Mickey Mackler, CEO of www.pennsports.com, describes as "emotional," time out, the mid-air around, replay, getting up off the field, down to the second score and injury delays. The public percentage comparison of seven per cent action to 93 per cent inaction, if we were to play that figure into what you might call the Great Sports Action-to-Inaction Index,

you'll get a mix of one to 14. For every one minute of action in NFL game provided for a fan, statistics estimate inaction on his or her is well

It's easy—even enjoyable—to harpoon the NFL on this point, but in fairness the problem beamed out to the same offender when it comes to the A-to-I Index. Major League Baseball is—by a hair. In 1986, a sports reporter for the Kansas City Star noted the ball is play diminished a game between the Kansas City Athletics (that city's baseball team at the time) and the Washington Senators, which Washington was to play a game you'd expect to last a while. While allowed a second for each pitch (the war's ending as it was fueled off a generous allocation considering that a 90-mph fastball takes just .467 seconds to reach the plate. His stopwatch counted 36 seconds and 55 seconds of actual action. The entire average MLB game today, from first pitch to last out, takes about two hours and 50 minutes, with White's count we get a percentage split of six per cent to 94 per cent and an A-to-I Index of one to 16 (A half-century after Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly tossed an MLB playoff game in 13 minutes and 12 seconds of action, which yields an A-to-I Index closer to the NFL's.) The cycloping resolution for a fan? A football game has as little action in it as a baseball game.

If the lag two of sports south of the border score so low on the Index, how do our big two north of the 49th—NFL hockey and CFL football—fare? It's time to think that Canadian football would be at least as inactive as American, but it isn't. With its 30-second play clock and some stop-time included, the average CFL game contains 160 plays (a third more than in the NFL) for a superior A-to-I Index of one to 10. Hockey, like baseball, is a pure stop-time game, so a huge A-to-I has given 60 minutes of actual action in a two-hour and 25-minute average total game time an index of one to 1.4. (And that's including Don Cherry.)

But even hockey goes to the runway A-to-I runner, soccer, which to the undisciplined dismay of a lot of North Americans fans is the only major sport where the action provided (90 minutes) exceeds the inaction provided (21 minutes), for an index of one to 0.3.

Not only to many pro sports fans is today an delivering real-time entertainment, we have some leading commentators about the athletes who play them. First, that their professions are gracing Mickey Charles points out that when TV football commentators make the conspicuous omission, "The defense has been on the field for 30 minutes," the actual playing time the beleaguered defense has just endured is four minutes

("Wow," says Charles, "he still my beating and humanitarian heart?") Then there's the hourly wage issue. In 2005, Roger Clemens made US\$18 million with the Houston Astros, appearing in 32 games, meaning he very conservatively spent about five hours on the mound, putting his income at US\$3.6 million per hour. And Clemens was a bargain compared to, say, quarterback Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts. As an offensive player, Manning, whose salary this past

league's so in the technology that lets TV viewers today flip from one game to another, to maximize their action quotient. But the malady may be the pace of technology that fills in the deserts of inaction in televised sports instant replay.

It's impossible to imagine watching sports today without a chance to see every significant play—and most insignificant ones—reshown from a dizzying variety of angles, at a gallop of speeds. What used to be down-

The Great Sports Action-to-Inaction Index



year was US\$18 million, played at least eight minutes of the 16-minute total attack of the Colts' 16 games, or about two hours and 36 minutes in all—which means he made more US\$4,981,000 per hour. Even accounting for water cooler time and Internet loafing, your average office staff is more labor-intensive than that.

Why, then, are these sports that give so little able to continue as they're providing to reach? Why are these games still so popular? The lure of gambling is one explanation (especially in pro football), along with office pools and sports loaves and fantasy

game is now decreasing in time, the volume of indirect analysis. This is why the games that have the greatest gaps between action (NFL football) are best on TV and those with the least (hockey) are better watched live. Replay upon such as live action features, and suddenly it's not just the staff of the past, but legend. It's a myth to think sports fans crave novelty, like everyone today, we live to the familiar; in a 900 channel universe, redundancy is pure comfort. Roger George Steinberg, give to George Steinbrenner. "Who cares if we learn from history, as long as we can repeat it."



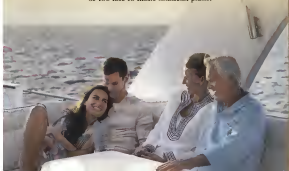
RACING CAR TAKES ON BOEING 777

New Zealand A1 Grand Prix driver Jeremy Field beat a Boeing 777 at Auckland airport in a spirited race to promote his forthcoming A1GP Tour. Observers credited the Air New Zealand pilot with local knowledge of the runway and a size handicap to beat A1 in the first race. The plane had to achieve the highest possible speed before taking off but in a second race, Field accelerated to 320 km/h, beating the 777 when it became airborne at 270 km/h.

FINANCIAL PLANNING IN ACTION

Planning for the Ages

Everyone's financial situation changes over the course of a lifetime. But whether you're in your twenties or your seventies, it's never too early or too late to make financial plans.





Over five years ago we invested in a smaller sports shoe company. Instead of one of its bigger, better known competitors. We really liked their plan to grow their product line by adding lifestyle clothing and fashionable gear. After we invested, we saw the brand's popularity grow as well. This growth has continued, returning to us a reward of over 400% on our investment. Ask your advisor about AIM Trimark or visit aimtrimark.com

Knowing Pays



AIM TRIMARK

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An adult who invests \$1,000 a year for seven years between the ages of 19 and 25 and then invests nothing more will have more money at 65 than one who waits until he turns 26 to invest \$1,000 a year, every year, for the following 40 years.

20s The roaring twenties

Even if you don't prepare a detailed financial plan, you can follow some basic financial fundamentals that won't take a lot of effort and will help you as you get older. "If I've learned one thing," says financial advisor and author David Bach, "it's this: It is not what you earn that makes you rich or poor; it is what you spend."

>>>PAY OFF YOUR STUDENT LOAN: For every dollar you need to pay back a loan, the government charges you income tax. That means that you've already spent at least 20 cents of every dollar of your loan repayment. On top of this, the bank charges you another five or six cents in the form of interest. If you do the math, you'll discover that you're repaying your loan with dollars that are worth about 75 cents. No wonder you have to work so hard to do it.

>>>ESTABLISH A CREDIT RATING: With a credit card from a retailer like Canadian Tire, you will establish a better credit rating than you would if you had no credit card at all, as long as you use it sparingly and pay your bills on time.

>>>START SAVING: Set up an automatic withdrawal program. Your bank will regularly take a specified amount from your pay and put it in a savings account. If the account doesn't carry sleeping privileges, you'll check twice a hour withdrawing the money unless you really need it.

>>>OPEN AN RRSP: Why save for retirement when you've just started to work? Because you'll save more, more easily, than you would if you'd waited. At the same rate of interest, an adult who invests \$1,000 a year for seven years between the ages of 19 and 25 and then invests nothing more will have more money at 65 than

one who wants until he turns 26 to receive \$1,000 a year, every year, for the following 40 years. That might explain why more than 60% of people between the ages of 18 and 34 now hold RRSPs, according to an RBC study.

>>>IF YOU REALLY NEED A CAR LOAN, BORROW WISELY You can reduce the amount that you pay for your car loan by establishing a good credit rating, making your payments on time and identifying the fees and penalties for late or early payment. As with a student loan, the sooner you pay off your car loan, the better. Of course, the cheapest car loan is one that you don't obtain in the first place.

[30s] The turbulent thirties

In your thirties, you'll start earning more money than you've ever had before, but you'll spend most of it before you can say "income taxes". You'll probably borrow money, as well, not only to buy things but also to invest or to house, support a family and save for retirement.

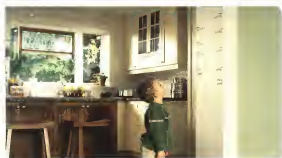
>>>MARRY SMART Marriage or living together can have financial repercussions, especially if you buy a house. A marriage agreement that addresses spousal support, the ownership, division or inheritance of property, the education and moral training of children and the consequences of separation or death will help you to avoid unnecessary conflict if your relationship turns sour.



Depending on where you live and how much you earn, you'll spend more than \$200,000 to raise a child to the age of 18.

>>>BUY A HOUSE? A house represents the biggest investment that most people will make in their lifetime, but it's almost always cheaper in the long run than paying rent. If you can't save more than 20% of the cost as a down payment, you'll need CMHC insurance, which adds almost 4% to the total purchase price. A good credit rating will again help to keep the cost of a mortgage down. Sometimes a mortgage broker can find a better deal than you'll get at the bank.

>>>ASSESS THE FINANCIAL DEMANDS OF CHILDREN Depending on where you live and how much you earn, you'll spend more than \$200,000 to raise a child to the age of 18. When the child first arrives, maternity benefits cover only 33% of a working woman's weekly insurable earnings, up to \$463 a week, and only if you qualify. The \$100-a-month universal child-care benefit hardly covers the cost of food, baby formula and diapers. It stops when the child turns six, and you have to apply for it before the government will send it to you. (Forms are available from the Canada Customs & Revenue Agency or www.cra-arc.gc.ca.) You may also get an additional \$100-a-month from the Canada child tax benefit, if your family's net income is less than



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about \$45,000 a year. A child owes you a tax credit of about \$100 a year. If both parents work, you can also deduct child-care expenses from your taxable income, to a limit of \$175 a week, until your child turns seven and \$100 a week after that, until child reaches 16.

>>>INVEST IN AN RESP: As soon as your children get a second insurance number, which you should obtain right away, you can start saving for their post-secondary education through a registered education savings plan (RESP). You can defer tax on as much as \$50,000 in contributions, although you can't deduct them from your income tax the way you can with RRSP contributions. The government will add 30 cents per dollar contributed to an RESP to a maximum of \$2,500 a year until the child turns 17. There is an element of a gamble to an RESP, however, because not every child proceeds directly to post-secondary education.

>>>INSURE YOUR LIFE: A term life policy costs less than other types of life insurance and will cover the cost of paying major debts, including the mortgage on your house, if you die. A term life policy is usually cheaper than mortgage insurance and your beneficiaries get the full amount no matter how much you repay on your mortgage.

>>>CONSIDER CRITICAL ILLNESS AND DISABILITY COVERAGE: For people in their thirties, disability is more likely than death. Critical illness becomes more likely

the longer you live. Disability insurance replaces income; critical illness insurance provides a lump sum to pay for your recovery and reduce your financial obligations.

>>>START PLANNING YOUR ESTATE: A will can make life easier for the people you leave behind. It should identify an executor and a person to look after your children if you and your partner both die. It should also specify the way you want your estate distributed.

>>>RETIREMENT: According to Desjardins Financial Security, more than 30% of working Canadians don't start saving seriously for retirement until they're in their fifties. Since only one in three of us are covered by company pension plans, the rest of us have to depend on the Canada Pension Plan and our own savings when we retire. Despite all your other financial obligations, you should start saving for retirement on your thirties if you want to accumulate enough to retire comfortably.

>>>MAKE A FORMAL PLAN: Even if it's in your head, you have a general idea of how much you spend and how much you earn, so you can earn more or spend less or redefine your goals altogether. But the further ahead you look and the more people who depend on you, the more vague your plan becomes, and that's when a financial advisor can help you to stay focused.

Not everyone needs a planner or advisor to manage his finances. But when your financial life becomes confusing or too challenging to maintain by yourself, you can find advice in a number of different places. The website of RBC Investments, for example, (www.rbcfinancialplanning.com) provides 11 questions that guide you in deciding to contact a financial planner. For example, are you frustrated by all the conflicting financial advice you hear? Would you sleep better if you had a professional you could trust looking after your finances and your financial planning? Would you like a non-biased opinion on your insurance needs?

If you answer "Yes" even to one of the questions, RBC suggests that you contact a financial planner for assistance and support tailored to your personal goals, financial objectives and investment style.

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Despite all your other financial obligations, you should start saving for retirement in your thirties if you want to accumulate enough to retire comfortably.

40s Life begins at forty

If you've made it this far you'll have started to pay off your debts, and you may even have some money left over to start investing.

>>>MANAGE YOUR DEBT With a mortgage, credit cards, possibly a car loan and a line of credit, you may not know exactly how much money you owe. But if your debts amount to more than 40% of your gross income, they may restrain your ability to accommodate unforeseen events and expenses, a new roof for the house, for example, or the loss of a job. Before you can plan for your financial future, you have to quantify your debts. As TD Canada Trust advises, "By assessing your current debt situation, you'll be in a better position to assess how well you are managing your current debt and how well prepared you are to handle further debt."



TD provides a worksheet for calculating your total debt, along with tips on how to deal with it, at www.tdcanadatrust.com/planning.

>>>BUILD A PORTFOLIO Investing sounds more complicated than it really is, and you can find lots of resources to help you to do it well, including a wealth of books in the personal finance section of your local bookstore or library and several top-notch websites, including:

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The value of vacation properties has risen 13% since the summer of 2006 and, since supply exceeds demand, you might even make money in the process.



>>> CONSIDER A VACATION PROPERTY. Now that the kids are old enough to swim across the bathtub, you might like to spend your vacations in a place that doesn't cost \$200 a night. Maybe you should buy a vacation property. Royal LePage says the value of vacation properties has risen 13% since the summer of 2006 and, since supply exceeds demand, you might even make money in the process.



>>> PLAN FOR SUCCESSION

If you own your own business, now's the time to start thinking about what you'll do with it when you decide to retire or turn your attention to other pursuits. Who will take over the company? Will you sell it or just close it down?

50s Going strong at fifty

>>> PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

Whether you will receive a pension or plan to live off the proceeds of a business after you've sold it, you should calculate your requirements to see if you have enough money to live comfortably. The calculators at www.dinkytown.com can help. You can also get useful information

from the CRA at www.cra-arc.gc.ca, under Forms and Publications.

>>> BILL THE CHILDREN. More than one in three Canadians between the ages of 20 and 29 lives at home. Maybe that's because their parents have such big houses, or maybe it's because their parents have given up the price of real estate to levels that most kids can't afford. Whatever the reason, if your children return to the nest, you might consider charging them rent.

>>> TAKE CARE OF YOUR PARENTS. More than 2 million people over the age of 45 provide informal care to seniors, and almost everyone will at some point have to take care of at least one parent. And yet we're terribly unprepared for this near certainty. Only one in three people has brought up the question with parents as to their wishes should they become incapacitated. Almost no child ever raises the topic of a "do not resuscitate" order or a living will. Nor do they even discuss the basics of estate planning to avoid squabbles over the family cottage or other parental assets. You should raise these topics now, before it's too late.

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➤ For the average Canadian senior, who has 80% of his assets tied up in his house, a reverse mortgage provides some much-needed disposable income.

[60s] Doing sixty

>>>PLAN YOUR GIFTS Many people name a charity as a beneficiary of their will, life-insurance policy, RRSP or RRIF. You can get information about more than 13,000 registered Canadian charities at the CRA's website (www.cra-arc.gc.ca/inf/charities). You can find more information about charities and non-profit organizations at the website of Imagine Canada (www.imaginecanada.ca). Some charities participate in a program called Leave a Legacy (www.leavelegacy.ca), a gift-giving initiative supported by charities, community foundations, estate planning professionals, corporate sponsors and the media.

>>>CONSIDER A REVERSE MORTGAGE For the average Canadian senior, who has 80% of his assets tied up in his house, a reverse mortgage provides some much-needed disposable income. With a reverse mortgage you get a lump sum based on a percentage of the value of the equity in your house. You make no monthly payments as long as you live there, and the interest accumulates until you or your heirs sell the property. A reverse mortgage works best for people in their seventies who have paid off their mortgage. You can find more information about reverse mortgages at the website of the Canadian Home Income Plan (www.chip.ca).

[70s] Seventy and counting

>>>COLLAPSE YOUR RRSP When you turn 71, you must do one of three things with your RRSP: cash it in and pay tax on the amount, purchase an annuity that provides a steady but fixed income, or convert your plan into a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF). A RRIF is the most popular option. Similar to an RRSP, you can hold a wide range of investments in a RRIF, and the income on the balance accumulates tax-free. But you have to withdraw a specific annual percentage of the plan's assets as income, beginning at about 5% and rising as the years pass.



>>>RENT YOUR VACATION PROPERTY Perhaps your circumstances have changed since you made your retirement plans or you now have grandchildren to whom you'd like to stay close. Instead of selling the property where you'd planned to spend some of your retirement years, rent it, either using an agent or doing it yourself. ■

January 10, 2008

LEADER-POST

'Worst Neighbourhood' title a blessing

REGINA — A year after a national magazine proclaimed Regina's North Central is Canada's Worst Neighbourhood, a local community leader says the controversial article may have been a blessing to the city.

"I truly believe that, if you can admit to your weaknesses, then you can only go forward," said Rob Dugan, community coordinator for the North Central Community Association.

Early in January 2007, *Maclean's* magazine published an in-depth article on the plight of North Central entitled Canada's Worst Neighbourhood. The article pointed out many of the problems plaguing the inner-city community, including poverty, crime, unemployment, housing and addiction problems, among others.

Dugan notes the article caused a backlash among civic leaders and those who said it was a slap to dedicated community members who had been doing everything they had to make the

neighbourhood better. But the story also led to many people seeing it as a Regina problem rather than a North Central problem, resulting in what Dugan called shops "outpouring of goodwill" for the neighbourhood.

"The reality is if you have people that are in that much trouble, we can do all the goodwill we have but if people are still going hungry and still people are homeless, then guess what? We need to step it up. What the *Maclean's* article has done is allowed us to reflect and I think everybody stepped back up to the plate," he said.

Joan Amelchuk, assistant executive director at the North Central Family Centre, said while much of the article wasn't news to the community, many people knew it was not the worst neighbourhood in the nation.

"At least what *Maclean's* did, what the article did, was bring the resources together in a way that we had to respond and respond more quickly. The community benefited," he said.

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MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL.

DID BELL STEAL THE IDEA FOR THE PHONE?

An author says he has damning evidence that says an old question

BY BRIAN KETNER — It is time to let the Americans have their due: Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, is our very own hero.

In the Scottish-born emigrant who conducted the first telephone conversation in Boston, we'll owe our knowledge, more quietly, that his passionate reader, Teacher-Inspector Oliver of the U.S.A. But we're proud that his burial plot is in Cape Breton, N.S., where Bell spent his summers and performed many of his later experiments, and that the first long-distance telephone call (Brantford to Paris, Ont.) occurred in Canada. Clearly we have always found Bell Canadian enough, and more than important enough, the phone alone, not to mention early work in aviation, given him a place in the pantheon of innovators whom that adverbial only with Thomas Edison. But now there's a new question in the air: was Bell French enough?

The canonical story of the telephone's invention is well known. On March 10, 1876, struggling with a mechanism for transmitting voice, Bell was in his Boston lab when he spotted battery acid on his forehead and yelled for his assistant at the next room: "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you." To his amazement, Tom Watson heard the cry, not directly from Bell's mouth, but via the apparatus that he had been experimenting with. The two young men, according to Charlotte Gray's bestselling 2006 account, *Inventor Mind: The Passionate Life and Invention Genius of Alexander Graham Bell*, "exchanged with excitement." They switched places so Bell could hear Watson, and laughed and roared together.

the night until Bell concluded the world's first telephone conversation with "God save the Queen!" and leaped into an embrace. He took a few dashes. That first exclamation should settle the national question for all time: in Boston, epicenter of the American Revolution in 1776, the year of the U.S. new national, a man who achieved his life's god given "God save the Queen?" He might as

CROSS-BORDER ICON Bell at Bell Labs. Canada's first telephone business office at the Bell Brotherhood in Brantford, Ont., founded before the Hall of Great Americans in 1950, statue in Brantford



BELL GOT THE PATENT DESPITE HIS DEVICE NOT WORKING AND A COMPETING CLAIM THE SAME DAY

well have yelled "I am Canadian!" All the rest—from the birth of Mr. Bellard to what was over the Atlantic world and open-air-circuit, all the way down to those two anonymous brothers—is generally national history.

Not quite, though. Shulman's claim is hardly the first made against Bell. The inventor and his fledgling telephone company had to fight off some 600 lawsuits over the following two decades, including five that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. But what some thought the world's largest monopoly were they, all and nobody usually disputed Bell's claim for another century. In 2003, the U.S. House of Representatives finally responded to pressure from Italian-American senators and recognized the pioneering role of Antonio Meucci with a carefully worded resolution "that his work in the invention of the telephone should be acknowledged." That turn prompted a letter to the House from Parliament in Ottawa: "This House affirms that Alexander Graham Bell of Brantford, Ont., and Melville, N.S., is the inventor of the telephone."

The sort of linguistic congealment is fairly common in the history of science, where

there is often a distinction to draw between who first had the ingenious idea or insight and who first came up with a viable economic possibility. Whatever work Meucci did, it was Bell who acquired the patent and invented the phone company. What Shulman charges, however, is a series of outrageous broad-brush business practices, and more like fraud.

In 2005, Shulman was a senior in residence at MIT and reading Bell's 1875 new books when he had aureka moment of his own: Bell was in Boston, experimenting slowly in the early part of the year, making incremental changes, trying better mixtures of differing strengths, magnets as different combinations, and getting nowhere. Even so, Bell's attorneys, knowing others were getting close, filed for patent in Washington, adding to the

to that there was a conflicting submission from another applicant, also submitted on Feb. 14. Yet Bell's patent was approved—three days before the crucial technological achievement that actually made his phone work—despite the coincidence. And who was that other guy? Well, Shulman learned it: Elisha Gray's filing, and now a sketch he calls "virtually identical" to the one in Bell's notebook, he no longer wonders where Bell had found his new idea.

There's much more to Shulman's case. He identifies motive: Bell was desperate to marry his beloved Melville Hubbard, the daughter of his own banker friend, who would help him finance the much used but perfected his invention. He identifies means: a highly bankrupt but let Bell's legal team know when Gray filed and who later revealed the contents of Gray's application to Bell himself in 1884, patent examiner James H. White, a well-known alcoholic and liar—who owed money to one of Bell's lawyers even as he was affirming he had shown Gray's papers to Bell, whom he easily bribed him \$100 for it. (White's fraudulent character deflates many of Shulman's best legal arguments.) Shulman provides explanations for formerly puzzling items about the race to patent the phone: why Hubbard, Bell's attorney, filed the patent (with knowledge of a scheme of transmutation) on Feb. 14; why Bell once wrote to Gray that he knew nothing of the latter's application except that it transmitted speech via water (how could he have known otherwise such); and Shulman cites a plausible psychological portrait of a post-telephone Bell [who had another 46 years to live] often struck with guilt.

But at the heart of Shulman's case is his almost immediate conclusion, on seeing Gray's drawing, that Bell's invention was based on Gray's, and that only plagiarists could explain how this could have happened. "The patently clear what Bell biographer Charlotte Gray writes on: 'We read other books by Shulman, including the one where he went to see the Great Central and his role in the invention of the telephone, he is his lackluster. He's wonderful writer, but he always has a hammer in his hand and everything looks like a nail to him. He's crafted a seductive and well-framed narrative, but I think it's rubbish.'"

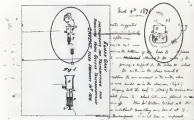
Gray couldn't disagree more with Shulman's reading of Bell's post-telephone writings. She spent a long interval in 60 years of Meucci's correspondence with Melville that I felt like a third person at their marriage. Every time Shulman cited a passage in an undated reference of Gray, Gray would think, "Wow, I read that in an entirely different way. The idea due Bell filed, as often as possible,

to Cape Breton in order to be as far as possible from the scene of the crime particularly increases her "Shulman one I have read the same letters to me—Bell loved Cape Breton because it reminded him of Scotland."

The stark disagreement in chronology of Shulman's first invention, the cops have true crime story with a watered-down conclusion on existing history—how the past is somewhat and reconstructed through the eyes of the present—that even Gray is happy to call

winning Bell's contemporary are not. Of course, that contemporary comes from Tom Watson's memoirs, written a half-century after the fact, four years after Bell's death in 1922. (Bell himself never said anything about the momentous discovery.) Still that was as unreliable, and the three mistakes, rife with detail and counter details, of the telephone's origins in a suitable Shulman does not want Watson's account to be replaced by another tale, equally well and equally

THE OTHER GUY When Shulman saw a sketch by Elisha Gray (center) he felt like "virtually identical" to the one in Bell's notebook, he no longer wondered where Bell got the idea



THE PATENT EXAMINER SWORE IN AN AFFIDAVIT HE'D SHOWN BELL GRAY'S FILING IN RETURN FOR \$100

"Securing, heaviest." If a historian comes to the conclusion that Bell can only have made his breakthrough by theft, suggestive subtextual will start to surface everywhere, if such a thought never crosses the researcher's mind, the will never be aware in a family letter ("There's nothing between the lines," Gray says, "and then there's the charge in with your mail made up.")

Shulman, who admires Bell (and was in his first moments to "give into this era of yours," doesn't think that and was any more closed than Bell's defender. But he's aware that his is the uphill struggle. The story of the phone's discovery is spread in books and files, is vivid in our collective memory, in a way the 600 court cases and the uncertainty



reaches, even he controls himself, the story of a frustrated inventor, a good man who took a fateful chance to lose, and thereby gained will, riches and fame. "My goal is not to replace one historical myth with another," says Shulman, "but to show that French ready pay one invention, that things arise out of a ferment and a malaise." And that the past changes every time we look at it. ■

ANCIENT EGYPT: BURYING THE PIDDLE CLASS

The discrepancies of the royal tombs of ancient Egypt are well-known, but a recently opened tomb, undisturbed for 4,500 years and belonging to a member of the Fifth Dynasty middle-class, has some insights. The tomb of a high-priest's son has been opened, revealing 80 sealed beer jars, a perfume jar, and even with symbolic offerings. Archaeologists who found his walking stick and a scepter, a symbol of Neterkhe's authority.

HOW THEY DID IT...

film
Celebrating
the 'Boyz n the
City'

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Queen for
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steyn
Lady Liberty
busting

help
Bumbox
obsessions

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TV buying

Gracious living and the tattoo

Imagery once associated with criminals has been hijacked by big brands **BY ANNE KINGSTON**

OF ALL the images associated with the 1966 International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this month, none was more timely than that of a woman in a black dress, the company that makes BlackBerry, and New York City comic artist Scott Campbell. The 30-year-old artist, whose work adorns the epidermis of his friend Marc Jacobs and actor

Paul Giamatti has also been featured, with hardly a raised eyebrow peeping up at an advertisement—most recently in a print campaign for Juicy Couture fragrance. Ed Hardy clothing, a line of casual wear photographed as Madonna, Kevin Pollack and Snop Dog, the “punkster” of modern tattooing. Then there’s the Salsbury Jerry brand, a USA-made line of kitchen tools, accessories and more inspired by the work of the legendary Norman Collins, who tattooed sailors stationed in Hawaii during the Second World War. Further up the fashion food chain, Balmain’s designer Olivier Rousteau has employed tattoo imagery on T-shirts and in his spring 2008 collection.

Decor, too, has been pierced. Campbell produces a limited-edition collection of ornate furniture. Adorned with tattoos can be purchased at Home Depot. Last year, the in-demand Toronto firm Tati Uncle Design was hired to interpret the aesthetic for the interior of Tati’s Rock Bar, a Toronto nightclub featuring an in-house tattoo

shop that opened last month. “It was the ultimate branding job,” jokes designer Carmen Dunlop, who created the playful yet elegant tattoo esque graphics that cover the club’s murals, service and bathroom stalls. Charles Khachatur, a partner in the venture, says the goal was to create a venue more designed than live. “Many people who’ve stopped going to dingy rock bars now can say ‘I can go hear music, have dinner, have a tattoo in an atmosphere that’s very class and sophisticated.’” It says, “That was the challenge for me—bringing it up a couple of notches.”

No one has taken up these notions, however, than Staudacher, which branched as “Tati” line by the American artist and tattoo aficionado Kiki Smith last November. The collector’s high-level store is a US\$60,000 vault laden with classic motifs—a coiled snake,



WHAT'S NEW IN TATTOOS: From Staudacher (above) to the Coppola (below) and Converse sneakers to Angelina Jolie's back and a chair by tattoo artist Scott Campbell, the designs are everywhere. Above, from left: Waga in Toronto in David Greenberg's *Designs* magazine; Los Angeles tattoo artist Master Cartoon; Ed Hardy's top; Tati's Rock Bar; and

Josh Hartnett, who had to come a tattooed edition screen, or “theme,” for the ubiquitous FDA as well as an ad for BlackBerry cover “bearing a tattoo motif.” To fitting his celebrity status, Campbell was invited out at the show in a photograph of a tattoo. Now he’s in discussion about producing a new edition of BlackBerry—which, when ready, will serve as final original proof of tattoo’s 100-degree migration from street to corporate space.

In a nicely ironic twist, the self-branding once associated with criminals has been



ILLUSTRATION BY JONAS JONAS

a field on a beach, stars and flowers. The market clearly exists: the US\$4,700 crystal ankle proved so popular it's back for sale.

Such high-end respectability—and marketability—has been altered by the fact tattoo culture has become mass-market entertainment. The iconic spiky screws as a plot device in David Cronenberg's 2007 movie *Fearless Promotion*, which showcased the subcultured tone of *Viper* Magazine playing a Russian mobster. Celebrity tattoo artists have usurped celebrity chefs as new stars of reality shows including *India's* and *TLC's* top-rated *ink* franchise which, since 2004, has spawned CBS-like—first *Miami Ink*, then *L.A. Ink*, then *London Ink*. Oscar-winning producer Ron Howard and Brian Grazer just signed Mosaic Cartoon to a three-year deal, including a biopic. A documentary about the life of Norman Collins will make the film festival circuit this year, says Steven Grasse, the CEO of Philadelphia-based Gyné Advertising, which co-owns the Salford Jerry brand and produced the Canal Wild campaign.

The paradox of tattoo marketing, of course, is that mass-market rendering denies it of street cred and any illusion of "edge." Graze associated with rebels, danger and society's outcasts, tattoos are now worn proudly by high achievers with high disposable income, as revealed in corporate lawyer Dave Klineberg's 2007 book *inked: The Tattooed Professional*, in which doctors, lawyers and executives show off the large, sooty ink and images lurking beneath their white collars.

But what corporations are now tapping into is less their creative asset cred than its raw creative resource. Skulls, anchors and friendly faces have been replaced by family-friendly icons and images of personal achievement, right down to insignias from Ivy League schools. Johnny Depp appears on the cover of the current *Rolling Stone* with the tattoo "Lily Rose"—his daughter's name—etched over his heart. Angelina Jolie's engraving of the latitude and longitude coordinates of her children's birthplaces on her body has inspired the "new mom" tattoo trend. No longer risqué, the imagery comes in the kind of feel-good sentimentality usually associated with long-distance telephone ads. Small wonder companies that sell safety and reliability like Goodyear and Volvo use tattoo imagery in their advertising and corporate identities.

Used in ads, personalized, hand-drawn tattoos convey a sense of authenticity and permanence, always desirable qualities when selling stuff. Graphically, they defy the usual corporate diction, says Campbell. "There's none of that Photoshopped-out-of-gate look," Campbell, who opened his own ad agency, New York, three years ago, values a point of tattooing about two days a week in his Brooklyn shop Sacred Tattoo. "It's

three-dimensional and I don't find enough things out there that are sophisticated enough," says Dunlap, who observes a dearth of angularity in the format. "Tattoo art seems to mimic one another and it's boring." She speaks more and more in visual language, in symbols and iconography," she says.

There's also the risk of over-saturation. Graze observes that artists like Campbell, with whom he has worked and respects, could be over-exposing themselves. "He's a nice guy but he's going



FRESH INK: Johnny Depp's personal message, Steven's snail; Canal Wild's pack, photograph of tattooed doctor at home and at work from *inked* line: *Tattooed Professional*

such an important part of my identity," he says. "And as a marketing tool it's amazing." Graze has fans, however, the people he's networking with in his shop aren't likely to be any designers, top-tier designers and major stars.

That's finding, given that the greatest marketing potential for tattoo imagery now is in the Blackberry using professional class. What was once subculture is increasingly high culture, with price tags to match. We're seeing full cards, back to the days when only the wealthy brandished tattoos. Hardy's work, covered by collectors, is part of the permanent collection of San Francisco's de Young Museum. Campbell was exhibited alongside art-world darlings Helena Lieke and Nate Lowman at the Biennale Toura Contemporary Art Centre in Athens. This month, he's part of a group show in Milan and is showing at the Bologna Art Fair. "It's American B&B art," says Graze.

Not everyone is buying it. "I find the au-

Hollywood," he says. Graze says Cypher is not full about how the Salford Jerry brand is positioned, he says. "We have a lot of movies that want to get the product in their lives we say so," says Graze, noting they turned down *The Bourne Last*, the latest Jack Nicholson film.

"We don't want to be in it," he says. Campbell himself admits the saturation point could be near. Still, he has faith tattooing will endure—and even improve—as an art form. "It's kind of like everybody got over the stigma because of the criminal element and now we can finally start to explore the creative part of it properly," he says. "There's some beautiful imagery that's been neglected because it had that underlying of society associated with it."

The question now becomes whether tattoos will be able to endure society's overkill. They've transcended killer gangs, Russian mobsters and prison yards. Let's see if the rest will be able to survive Nike, Juicy Couture and RJ's Reynolds.



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: MITTERAND'S STUFF
The widow of former French president François Mitterrand has put his possessions on the block to raise up to \$550,000 for her charity. Among the items for sale are Mitterrand's box hat and silk suits, as well as gifts from global leaders, such as a porcelain-ink bracelet from Fidel Castro, Air France travel kits, and a snazzy little "biggy bank" in the shape of a prancing woman carrying a piggy bank. "Mitterrand, I'm waiting for you."

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FRIENDS AND family of Bay are pulling in to get her a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, alongside names like Jim Carrey and Mike Myers

The little old lady from Manitoba

Adored by Seinfeld, Fonzie and David Lynch, Frances Bay is ready for her Canadian close-up

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON—Chances are you've never heard of Frances Bay. Like so many character actors, she has faced that instantly recognizable yet hard to place. She's been known from *Seinfeld*—as the pensive lady who brought the bakery's last loaf of marble rye bread only to have Jerry Seinfeld snatch it out of her hands. Gaining cult status as "the marble rye lady," Bay popped up in two more Seinfeld episodes, including the series finale. You might also remember her in *Fonzies* as the grandma in *Happy Days*. Or *Adrian's* grandma in *Happy Gilmore*. Or Kyle MacLachlan's aunt in *David Lynch's Blue Velvet*—sitting at a table perched on a windowsill with an insect in his back and uttering the film's pendulous line of dialogue: "I don't see how they could do that. I could never eat a bug."

Frances Bay, who turned 90 this week, may be the oldest Canadian actress still working in Hollywood. She has appeared in some 30 movies and over 100 TV shows, even though she didn't launch her career until she was 60. And that's the distinction of gracing the final episodes of two other classic sitcoms—*Happy Days* and *What's the Deal?* New friends and family of the actress, who grew up in Dauphin, Man. (pop. 3,000), are petitioning to cement her reputation with a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto—alongside names like Jim Carrey, Mike Myers, and Shania Twain. An online campaign (www.petitiononline.com/francesbay) has drawn almost 3,000 signatures, and glowing letters of support from Henry Winkler (*Fonzies*), Mary McCormack (who asked that her star sit next to his), and Seinfeld, who remarked that the "role she stole as the 'Rye Lady'."

All this is expectedly poignant now that Bay does her acting in a wheelchair. Her right leg

was amputated below the knee in 2002 after she was hit by a 17-year-old driver while crossing the street. She was on her way to a bakery, looking for a special Thanksgiving dessert.

The daughter of Aaron and Miss Gelfman—Russian Jews who emigrated to Canada to escape czarist tyranny—Bay was born in Manitoba, Alta. But the Gelfmans moved to Dauphin, where her parents ran a clothing store. (She had a brother, Irving Gelfman, who became an eminent sociologist.) Bay began acting in school plays, often as a supplanter, a role that struck as she pursued a career onstage in Winnipeg and on CBC Radio. After a string of prison parts, Bay recalls stumbling on the director, "When am I going to play more character roles?" His reply: "My dear, you're a princess now and you will stay a princess as long as you can."

After studying with acting legend Uta Hagen in New York, Bay became enthralled with Winnipeg's Int'l. New Theatre Group in the 1950s. "I knew when labour unions were struggling to be recognized," she says. "I wasn't a labour sort of person. I'm a middle-class Jewish gal. But this theatre was so exciting. I'm a socialist today, if that means anything." Bay went on to host a CBC radio show during the Second World War and with her dulcet voice she became known as the sweetest of Canadian voices abroad.

After the war, Bay put her career on hold to have a family. Her husband, Chuck Bay, was her childhood sweetheart. She vowed to marry him at 21, when the first film paid her across a playground in Dauphin, but waited until she was 26. Chuck was a clothing executive with a Harvard M.B.A., and a job that took them to the United States. "It was the great feminist period when, at 6 o'clock, dinner should be on the table," recalls Bay. "I had a child, and I was devoted to my husband's career. They're both gone now."

Her son died tragically at 25 (Chuck died in 2002), and she lost her leg two months later. After her son's death, Bay resumed her career, playing her first TV role in *Kojak*, then making her film debut in *Midway* (1976). In *Remember Me* to the Gophers, and TV shows from *ER* to *Anne of Avonlea*—for which she won a Gemini—the 80-year-old acts in every production, the eccentric old lady with a needle in her eye. David Lynch couldn't get enough of her after *Blue Velvet*, he cast her in *Wild at Heart*, *Twix Peak*, and in movie spinoff, *Five Wives* with life.

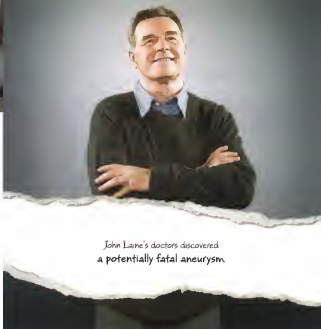
In an effusive letter to the Walk of Fame selection committee, Winkler called Bay "an inspiration," explaining that, as "my make-believe grandmother on *Happy Days*, she was in truth my only grandmother." His own grandparents had died in Nazi Germany. Sadly, Frances Bay never had a chance to have her own grandchildren, but Dauphin's producers became grandmothers to the stars. ■



WE'RE STALKING... LINDSAY LOHAN

As she hadn't suffered enough already spending a grueling 60 minutes in jail for drunk driving, the 21-year-old star will be wearing add-on! Here by doing community work in a morgue. Lohan will appear in the dead zone for two four-hour days and in addition will have to help out in a hospital emergency department. However, putting the experience magnet inside a busy crisis ward may not be the best use of hospital resources.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GALT



John Laine's doctors discovered a potentially fatal aneurysm.

Medical innovation from St. Michael's Hospital saved John Laine's life. A traditional operation was too risky. Instead, doctors Alan Loung, Andrew Common and Chyenne Abraham performed a first-ever in Toronto, Endovascular Aneurysm Repair, to fix the thoracic and abdominal aorta. This amazing, minimally-invasive procedure used a guide wire to carry a life-saving stent graft and restore blood flow. And instead of months in recovery and an enormous scar, Laine made a recovery in just days.

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THE CAMERA followed the royals around for a year. In one intimate scene, Elizabeth returns a courtesy to her four-year-old grandson.

The Queen's days: busy, busy, busy

A new series documents the royals at work, including the day the elevator broke down

BY PATRICIA TIERNEY "One is Not Amused" screened the headline on London's Daily Mail last July. The previous day, the BBC had released a promo clip from its upcoming documentary series about the working life of Queen Elizabeth II that showed a disgruntled sovereign cursing: "I'm not changing anything...I've had enough," as it cut from out of a photo shoot with Anne LeBovine, commissioned to commemorate an upcoming state visit to the United States. But the show had been edited together in the wrong order, and a mid-faced BBC and RBC, the series' producers, had to apologize. Fortunately, less than a day later, the Queen had actually been grumbling on her way to the door because a maid had told her it might be an earth change. Given that the wearier, unscripted, the camerawork still follows the Order of the Garter, on top of a heavily embroidered evening gown and dripping with a morning's treasure of diamond jewelry, the sovereign's mood isn't thrilled about any situation on planet Earth.

What the promo first observed was what the comedy edited footage does show—a delicious clash of colours. (Memorably: The Royal Family at Work aired on CBC on Sunday, Feb. 3, 10, and 24 in two-hour chunks starting at 8 p.m.) After LeBovine's original idea of showing the Queen on her home in the same apartments at Buckingham Palace was rejected, the photographer scribbled on four more traditional shots. Then, at the start of the sequence, she took the Queen to take off her "crown" to "look less scary." The Queen's pose didn't quite drop, but she clearly took about "Less scary? What do you think this is?" she icily replies, pointing to her velvet Garter robes. LeBovine backpedals rapidly.

"At first I wasn't too sure if she was kidding or not," explained the celebrity photographer, "and then I realized she wasn't." The pictures are regal but detached.

But the LeBovine episode is only a small part of what is, overall, a nuanced and colorful portrait of the family's working life rather than its scandals and traditions. For a year, cameras followed not only the Queen, 81, but virtually the entire royal family as they carried out 4,300 annual engagements, everything from the Queen and Prince Philip at the opening of Parliament to Prince William dropping by a charity for the homeless at 11 a.m. Though there are some intimate scenes, including a glimpse of Elizabeth returning a courtesy to her four-year-old grandson, the series focuses on what it takes to make official visits look royally smooth. For palace officials, that usually involves ordering guests while deftly sidestepping controversy. For the hosts of each royal visit, there is usually a copious amount of guest spread around before the arrival of royalty as well as hastily learned etiquette lessons. For the royals themselves, constantly under scrutiny, the ability to talk to often nervous people is a must. A household supply of chat chit doesn't hurt since the family is estimated to meet a half million people annually.

The producers, as well as Robert Hartman,

who wrote the companion book to the TV series, are fans on the most regal of media, capturing the royal household's legendary attention to detail. Congratulations cards for coronary birthdays are sent out with a stern delivery warning for postal workers: "Failure to do so by 10:30 will result in an enquiry from The Palace." Every penny of taxpayer money is accounted for. The Queen, who personally approves travel costs over \$5,000, is seen scrutinizing a request from her cousin, the 63-year-old duke of Gloucester, a former architect, who has a day packed with duties in Shropshire: "Golf, a school, a foundation, music, a district hospital..." she recites. "Yes, of course he can have a helicopter. It's not a day we're using it." What counts is not a helicopter, but an amazingly informed woman who, after nearly 16 years on the throne, still tracks cases of government decisions and remembers daily.

The best part of the series occurs when something goes slightly wrong. Just before a state banquet for the president of Ghana, John Agyekum, the elevator breaks down, stranding Prince Philip and Mrs. Rofkar, who can't climb stairs, on the wrong floor. As the careful timing of the dinner courses out of control, officials fret and frown over the Queen is seen pacing. Then she bends so far over a railing that her hair looks ready to drop, looks up and smiles. Philip has saved the day by using the elevator. "What a life and bust," says a relaxed sovereign. Indeed. ■



ACCORDING TO TV — CELEBRITY FAMILY LIFE

"Osama bin Laden's son announced today that he wants to be a police officer. 'Talk about inspiring against your parents! That's the true culture's kid announcing she's going to be human.'"

—Cathy Ferguson

Belle's marriage is over! It lasted only two weeks. They started to drift apart during the ceremony. The legal question now is: who gets custody of the cake? —David Letterman

THE LONG SUFFERING LADY LIBERTY: In *Power of the Ape*, you can't go wrong with the most reliable image of societal collapse

Why we love that alien hordes stuff

It's all delicious fantasy for us. But in some places, they're actually living the apocalypse.

BY MARK STEYN

Almost everyone who's resorted to Western pop culture over the last half-century is familiar with the great conceit image that dominates the cover of the *Ape*: a 14-foot-tall Charlton Heston falling to his knees in a rictus face before a shrouded Statue of Liberty peering out of the smog and confusion that the "Planet of the apes" is, in fact, his own—or is not. On the Century-Montreal website the other day, Gerry Canavan used it as a convenient illustration for some musings on the appeal of "apocalyptic fantasy," and unsurprisingly found himself troubled by how often the image occurs, as the constant shorthand for civilizational crisis. Mr. Canavan rounded up several of those familiar examples: *Independence Day* (Lady Liberty smacked by alien), *The Day After Tomorrow* (Lady Liberty flails from ice as not after sudden climatic climate change apparently brought on by a speech from Dick Cheney)—and then dove into some of the more obscure ones: the first issue of a 1973 comic book by Jack Kirby (a DC Men's Adventure comic) (see below), "Beasts who act like men" (see below) as like brutal South Africa?—and then, looking like a teenage Miley Cyrus, the blood-thirsty copycats of Kirby's bobbing purposefully on a die they through a devastated New York just a hint of Liberty waist-deep in water.

Things are worse on the first issue of *All-New Discoveries*—a 1-in this ungodly tale of a devastated world, the war's up to the statue's chest. If you're peering at All-New Discoveries, you can't go wrong with the most reliably all-around image of societal collapse (it's been that way at least since the 1940s, when

polygraph *Man Antagonist Science Fiction* ran covers of rick-borne primitives approaching an abandoned Liberty on an underground clocked island. The current example of Liberty basking before Mr. Canavan's readers dawns all the way back to an 1887 edition of *Life*, and a story called "The New Morning," illustrated by a pen-and-ink drawing of a headless Statue of Liberty with the smaller rag-rabbit of the city behind her.

The pop cultural designation of national landmarks is a mostly American phenomenon. In other places, it happens for real. Goldfish-chomping the way down Fifth Avenue and/or through the Empire State Building offers the promise of a roller-coaster ride when it's over: the grand view your feet will be as solid as it ever was. When we watched *sketches* take over Paris or the Statue of Liberty would be day as all our coronation. At the same time as *Answering Stories* and *Answering Science Fiction* were running those covers of the Statue of Liberty basking and basking in an dystopian scenario after another, *Blackburn's Palace* magazine directed his during the 1940s. Reducing the iconic British landscape to rubble was "fictional" and wasn't that *Anticipation*, and it didn't even require much Science: on one occasion, an enterprising lone German bomber flew low up the Mall and dropped its load directly above the king and queen's living quarters where the king and queen's living quarters where the American audience whoop and holler at the waning of the White House in *Independence Day*, it's because such thrills accurately the stuff of fantasy—erstwhile they were with a Thursday morning as September when a guy in a cane named the Manhattan skyline. General Ben Lundy evidently gave some thought to the topography of the

metropolis, though one wonders if he might also have got a bigger bang for the buck by taking out, say, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. Still, it's over so years ago now, and you can't help feeling that the *Independence Day* opportunities would generate the same thrills today. It's the difference between hanging upside down in one of Saddam's torture chambers or hanging upside down in a New York 55-Mile Club for half an hour after work on Fridays. We can enjoy blowing up the Statue of Liberty every couple of months in some movie or comic book because we assume it and what it represents are indestructible.

It doesn't seem that obvious in the rest of the world. This week, my eye fell on a "city-by-headline" in *Newsweek's* Daily Telegraph "General Ban Nailed Confusion To Nerve Killings." General Ban Nailed is a Lebanese warlord so called because of his preference for changing nicknames: wearing only his brass at the head of a similarly decorated contingent known as the Ban Nailed Battalion. As I said, the story happened to catch my eye, and when anything from Lebanon catches my eye, my nose to grab it back before someone else. And so it was with this tale. As the Telegraph's West Africa editor, Mike Peters, wrote:

"The nude gnomes being killed for terrorizing villages and sacrificing children whose heads they would eat before going into battle during Lebanon's 16-year so-called civil war which ended in 2001."

Did they die a lot of that? Child sacrifice and heart eating and so forth? Well, General Ban Nailed confuses us killing some 20,000 people before finding himself standing nose to nose on a bridge overlooking Maronite and Maronite the voice of God tell him he was Ban's slave and would report immediately. He would up having to apologize, of course. Oddly enough, when Mike was a kid

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE: In *Independence Day* is an apocalyptic fantasy when you live in splendid isolation of the world's capes

and watching and move on. Hey, it's Liberia. Back in 2000, the Ministry of Information had hailed President Charles Taylor for the ease of access he offered to his people "so that everyone will at least have the opportunity to see the face of the Chief Executive, instead of a select few." By contrast, only a select few got the opportunity to have the face of the previous Chief Executive, Samuel Doe. He'd fallen into the hands of Prince Johnson, one of Charles Taylor's allies in the battle to overthrow him. "That man won't talk," barked Johnson. "Bring me his owl." So the boys (and she's his owl, and then she's right, and made the president cut them.

But the kids kept the best bits for themselves. They removed Mr. Doe's family's genitalia and showed down the belt of his "power" and "manhood" of the person whose person you're making are transferred to the state. A New York returned to a Hobbesian state of nature is a delicious fantasy because it's so realistic, but in Liberia who needs that? They're living it—right down to the whole Queen Tawana thing. Back in *The Middle West* "You" menu options. And when it turns up on page 37 of the newspaper we give it a story that because who expects anything of West Africa anyway?

Liberia's not a "victim" of European colonization. Founded by freed American slaves, as first republic leader from 1847 until 1860, and then a civil war in 1864 broke the nation before made warlords come in—reigning, Monrovia began didn't really put that pure on before: warring, though, they favored more violent of an anarchistic postlife reminiscent of the anarchy in South.

In other words, Liberia was "backwards" to your neighbor when Mr. Lundy engaged in a lot of Caribbean rituals and so forth, and wondered still why he'd ever want to visit Monrovia? "I just see myself in a pot of boiling water with those damn dancing women." He would up having to apologize, of course. Oddly enough, when Mike was a kid

and it was taken for granted Africans were a bunch of cannibals, there was virtually no evidence for such a persistent stereotype. "The rest of the world always believed that there was cannibalism in Africa," wrote Charles Oyangba Oboe in *The East African* a few years ago, "but there wasn't much hard evidence for it." Today, when the PC misfires, dole out for evoking the old cooking pot, cannibalism is a forwarding. Mr. Oyangba Oboe was reporting that the Congolese Liberation Movement was slaughtering huge numbers of people and feeding the body parts to their relatives. As he sees it, it's a fraction of Africa's primitivism. "Cannibalism," he writes, "happens commonly where there is little science, and people don't see themselves as creatures of a civilization higher order than other animals around them. When you have more in the mind, you consider yourself and other humans to be very different from the things in the rest."

Well, maybe. Before the coming of most years Liberia didn't go to the moon but had a broadly flourishing society. So did the Babylonians, and unlike doomsday it would be more fun to reduce the point to rubble. They didn't eat their enemies' private parts, but they certainly did off plenty of brains and genitals. That, they never had a war class combatant of civilization like the Statue of Liberty, but you wouldn't have thought, given the society General Ban Nailed was born into, that there would be some restraint against tearing the brains out of children and eating them. Or so it's the possibility that General Ban Nailed's assassination attempt, wearing up your body as a bomb and setting the politicians to cause and lose the civil strife stopped. The state of nature has made huge advances in more ways—which is why some of us worry what will happen when such forces go nuclear. Like those damned Statue of Liberty covers in which the men come back and, as they're the product of confident 19th-century assumptions about a distant

MACLENN'S BESTSELLERS COMPILED BY BRIAN BETHUNE

Fiction

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 LATE NIGHTS ON AIR
by Elizabeth King | 1.001 |
| 2 THE UNCOMMON READER
by John Banville | 2.001 |
| 3 A THOUSAND SPLINDID DAYS
by Michael Ondaatje | 3.001 |
| 4 WORLD WITHOUT END
by John Banville | 4.001 |
| 5 CHEATING AT CANASTA
by William Trevor | 5.001 |
| 6 THE ASSASSIN'S SONG
by M.D. Valente | 6.001 |
| 7 CONFESSOR by Terry Goodkind | 7.001 |
| 8 DWYER by Michael Ondaatje | 8.001 |
| 9 PEOPLE OF THE BOOK
by Michael Ondaatje | 9.001 |
| 10 SLASHBERRY by Douglas Preston | 10.001 |

Non-fiction

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 HURRICANES by Oliver Sacks | 1.001 |
| 2 IN DEFENSE OF FOOD
by Michael Pollan | 2.001 |
| 3 THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE
WON ON CANCER by David Davis | 3.001 |
| 4 JOSHUA: THE MAN WHO MADE US
by Richard Dawkins | 4.001 |
| 5 THE BOOK DOCTRINE
by Norman Mailer | 5.001 |
| 6 COOK WITH JAMIE
by Jamie Oliver | 6.001 |
| 7 HOW TO TALK ABOUT BOOKS
YOU HAVEN'T READ by James Raymond | 7.001 |
| 8 THE THAMES by Peter Ackroyd | 8.001 |
| 9 BORN STANDING UP
by Steve Martin | 9.001 |
| 10 ENDOURAGE, 1945 by David Stafford | 10.001 |

LAST WEEK'S BESTSELLERS ON LISTEN

public living is a splendid institution from the world's eyes. Dystopian fantasies become obscenity for two reasons. If you're lucky, progress readers then should (see Miripally advice if you're not, they cross over from fiction to the news pages. ■



DVD BLANKS Catalogues the (sometimes subtle) differences in DVD versions of the same film. In this case, the 1964 L. B. Brown

Why stop at your local video store?

A Canadian website encourages movie fans to do their DVD buying all around the world

BY JAMIE E. WEINMAN—If you've already bought all the hundreds of thousands of DVDs in North America, and you're getting bored, there's a Canadian website with a solution: buy DVDs from everywhere in the world. It's DVD Beaver (www.dvdbeaver.com), created by Mississauga, Ont., resident Gary W. Toose. It covers U.S. DVDs but also DVDs from Europe, Asia and elsewhere. And since overseas DVDs aren't played on North American DVD players, it's like a big international for so-called "region free" players, which enable users to view any disc from anywhere in the world. After DVDs supplanted laser discs, watching movies at home became a mainstream hobby. Toose and his reviewers have a mission: make DVD collecting fun for obsessive specialists again.

Toose, a former computer programmer who has worked full time in DVD Beaver for the last 10 years, has an evangelist's purpose to show people what they're missing by limiting themselves to one country's worth of discs. In an interview with Maclean's, he said that this site encourages people to "maximize their entertainment potential" by helping themselves to the obscure movies reviewed at the site, like a Korean TV miniseries based on *All About Eve* (releasing it as a TV movie station in Brazil), or an uncut Italian special edition of Andy Warhol's three-hour *The Chelsea Girls*. Toose's own favorite film, the 1999 French drama *Amélie*, is not available outside France, and he says he's never have seen it if he didn't go overseas for it. The whole site is a testament of the independent theater that used to lure people in with the promise of obscure, unpublished movies, those theaters merely didn't exist now, so DVD Beaver has become their online equivalent.

There's a lot of worth in importing DVDs from overseas to get what Toose calls "the total movie experience" that can't be had. DVD buyers are raving. This philosophy applies more to mainstream U.S. movies. Reviewers use screen captures to compare the same shot in every DVD release of a film, and while sometimes the mainstream product looks better, other times you'll find that the more better picture or different scenes in a foreign disc. When examining every possible difference between one DVD and another, a review of Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* explains that the U.S. DVD is "slightly cropped on the right edge" but that a German DVD suffers from "sharp, vibrant sounds." The point is that it's worth searching the earth for the perfect representation of a movie. Toose insists that he shouldn't settle for "inferior or misquipped DVD's just because they're the ones we find in stores."

It's a reason statement that may have been influenced by one of DVD Beaver's contributors, Joshua Rosenbaum, and especially his book, *Movie Wars: How Hollywood and the Movie Company to Limit What Films We Can See*. Rosenbaum argues that theaters and mainstream critics tend to limit us to a tiny selection of films, mostly U.S. product that a few give approval "misconceptions" from around the world. By ignoring less-publicized

movies from Europe, Asia and even the U.S., Rosenbaum threatened, the reviewers "lose out most of what keeps the art of world cinema, including American cinema, alive." Now, with DVD Beaver and sites like DVD Beaver (a directory of DVD releases from every "region"), there are collectors who share Rosenbaum's vision of movie going as a global scavenger hunt. Toose shares the view that we should "keep an open mind and not simply succumb to the irrelevant and manipulative whims of the marketplace."

DVD Beaver itself is doing pretty well in that same marketplace; it's one of the top 10 most read DVD sites, and has spun off a news letter and discussion group. The site has even become popular and mainstream enough to inspire its share of internal disputes and mainstream media attacks. Malcolma Duggan versus the New York Times that DVD Beaver was "run by geeks whose fanatical attention to technical detail ignores that of hard-core audiophiles." But however mainstream the site becomes, its main function will continue to be the comforting feeling they're buying DVDs the mainstream media won't sell them about. Toose expresses pity for people who choose to limit their options by accepting only one country's worth of DVDs. "Mark Toose and there is no difference between the movie you won't read and the movie you don't read." But then again, with so many DVDs available from anywhere on earth, who has time to read anyway? ■



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PERRY ALVIN PRICE, III

1981-2005

As a child he'd had a bottle-fed piglet and a goat, and he loved his hunting dogs, Arthur and Leon

Perry Alvin Price, III was born April 9, 1984, in Baytown, a blue-collar city in the heart of Texas's refinery country. He was the fourth of five children born to Carol, a housemaker, and Perry Alvin, Jr., a highway patrolman, who later traded his badge for a desk job at a Houston insurance agency. Perry, their youngest son, was an angelic-looking little boy, his pale blue eyes and snow-white hair, however, disguised a temper, as his sister Patricia. "He was bad."

The tightly knit family shared a love of animals, their suburban

home looked like a menagerie, with a bottle-fed piglet named Carmen, mallard ducks they taught to fly atop the garage, and, until it dug up Carol's garden, a goat that Perry swore was a stray. But young Perry's dream was a stray, his first hunting dog, was a duck-hound named Ruby, after the dog brother from the TV series, *Ack! Meow! Poor Man*.

An avid fowl hunter like his eldest brother Michael, Perry shot his first bird—a red-breasted nuthatch—at 6, with a .410 gun. When Perry was 14, Mike went off to Tulane University, so a called Southern boy in New Orleans, on a football scholarship. On game weeks, the Price kids would pile into the van and drive through the night to catch Mike's games. Perry, Tulane's tall boy, got to race up and down the sidelines in his own, gray, green-and-blue jersey. He worshipped his big brother, a charming, all-American guy, who took him to his first duck hunt at 13.

In time Perry became an athlete in his own right, mingling with the local Little League ranks. In his senior year at Ross S. Sterling High School, his team even made it way to the Texas state championship in Austin, only to lose it in the final. Perry went on to Texas A&M University, earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, like Mike. But he only graduated for a year, in Kansas City—"long enough to know he didn't like being away from home," says his sister Nancy. He was living alone, putting in long hours and cross-countrying the country, when his company decided to reassign him. "He called me and said 'This puppy life ain't for me. I'm going home,'" Patricia, his older sister, explains. And he was.

At the time, Texas was short on math and science teachers, so the state rushed him through school, "paid for him and everything," and "bowed" to enable up with his master's in education and started

teaching, says Patricia. For 22 years, Perry, who called his two sons students his "pards" and was often over with his gentle, easy-going humor, taught math at Robert E. Lee High School, near his parents, where he saw duty. "The money wasn't anything like he was making before. But it fit his lifestyle better, as far as he liked to hunt and fish," says Patricia.

More than anything, Perry loved hunting waterfowl with his Labrador retrievers, Arthur and Leon. (His own game tag read that T-shirts that read *Red Dog of the Week*.) Together, he and son of his

closest hunting buddies found a big, old house on a nice field near the Gulf Coast. They called it "the lodge" and spent their weekends there, hunting from duck blinds in the surrounding woods. Perry, "who just about killed everybody with extreme pepper," did the cooking—usually a fish he'd caught, a duck he'd shot or a pig he'd trapped. They had just one rule: no girls allowed.

But three years ago, when Perry was 40, his soulmate, he changed the rule. "Kids was put to much an awful hunter and outdoorsman as he," Nancy explains. They were inseparable—once took an endgame by side in his house, "fished up-headed moon men," says Gerald Payne, Perry's brother-in-law. In 2003, they married and moved to the lodge. Since Kelly's kids were grown, Perry's Labs, whose photos lined his classroom walls, were his children to them. "He just loved these dogs," says his sister, Carol Ann. "Perry was devoted to teaching them to be well-trained and well-mannered," says Nancy.

On Jan. 5, Perry was at the lodge, with Kelly and his friend David Greber, when a flock of geese flew directly overhead. They could hear them honking from inside. Perry, who'd just walked from a yard, immediately called out. Incredibly, he'd landed in the yard, they didn't need the walking dogs to retrieve it. But Perry never missed an opportunity to train them, and threw them in the back of the truck. When he stopped, as in from the house, Perry walked around back to let them out. But he never got the message down. Arthur, his cherished chocolate Lab, who was bugging out early in the bed, suddenly wanted to greet him, nipped on Perry's shotgun, triggering a close-range blast. It was through the railing, catching his master in the right thigh, wounding his femoral artery. He bled to death in minutes. Police found Perry's gas console in

Arthur's muddy paw prints.

BY SANCY MACDONALD



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